CNN- DEATH OF PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W BUSH (11-30-2018) (11:50 P.M E.T - 3:00 A.M E.T)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA)

Uploaded by DANNOTCH'S NEWSVIDEOS (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7X0LKts7k4FT498Id_x5sg) on Tue Jun 15 2021.

From Friday, November 30th and Saturday, December 1st, 2018 CNN Live coverage of the death of Former President George H.W Bush. Bush was born on June 12th, 1924 in Milton Massachusetts.

- President Bush died at 11:10 P.M E.T at age 94 at his home in Houston.
- Coverage runs from 11:50 P.M E.T - 3:00 A.M E.T

- Political career of George H.W Bush

- 1963-1964 - Republican Party Chairman - Harris County, Texas
- 1964 - Loses Texas, United States Senate race against incumbent Ralph Yarbrough.
- 1967 - 1971 - Elected, serves two terms as Untied States Representatives (7th District)
- 1970 - Loses Texas, United States Senate race against Lloyd Benston.
- 1971 - 1972- United States, United Nations Representatives.
- 1972- 1974 - Republican Party National Chairman.
- 1974-1976 - United States Lesion to China.
- 1976- 1977 - Director of C.I.A.
- 1980 - Loses Presidential nomination to Former California Governor Ronald Reagan, Elected the 43rd, Vice President of The United States, serves, two terms.
- 1988 - Elected the 41st, President of the Untied States.
- 1992 - Loses bid for Re-election to Arkansas Governor, Bill Clinton.
- 1993 - Retires to Houston, Texas.

00:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA)

happy this is cnn breaking news we apologize for the interruption but we need to bring you some breaking news the 41st president of the united states george h.w bush has died i'm going to bring in now cnn's jamie gangel jamie has a close relationship with the family has kept in touch with the former president both former presidents and their family jamie what can you tell us some very sad news we've just received a statement from his son former president george w bush announcing the death of his father president george h.w bush who we called bush 41 and i will read this statement it says jeb neil marvin dorrow and i are saddened to announce that after 94 remarkable years our dear dad has died george h.w bush was a man of the highest character and the best dad a son or daughter could ask for the entire bush family is deeply grateful for 41's life and love for the compassion of those who have cared and prayed for dad and for the condolences of our friends and fellow citizens and you know i just i as i read it to you just now is actually the first time i've i've read it because we just got the statement and i have to say that what is striking is this is obviously one president talking about another president but it's a very personal it's clearly a son talking about his father don if you're just joining us the sad news just into cnn that the 41st president of the united states

00:02:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=120s)

the united states george h.w bush has passed away our special correspondent jamie gangel is joining us just reading a statement that was delivered to her from her from the son and former president as well george w bush listen listen you know over the years i mean he has we have we have watched him as an older statesman uh we have watched him jump out of airplanes we have watched him go through illnesses we watched him when his wife died this is a figure in american history that will be a huge loss especially in diplomacy and its statesmanship for this country absolutely first of all he was 94 years old he was our oldest living president i have to say that his passing does not come as a complete surprise as i think most people know he has suffered from parkinson's for the last couple of years he was confined to a wheelchair and we reported over the years a number of times that he's been in and out of the hospital but i think in the last couple of years one of the most remarkable things about him was that even though he was in a wheelchair and even though he had all of these health challenges as you point out he was still jumping out of perfectly good airplanes he never wanted to miss a moment and i think that that sentiment says as much about him on a personal level as anything else he really would when he was younger he liked to get up at five in the morning and started by writing thank you notes he would do six different sports if he had a day off

00:04:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=242s)

six different sports if he had a day off before noon he was very very active but the other thing i was thinking about today was not too long ago in 2011 president obama gave former president bush the medal of honor and when he gave it to him he it's the presidential medal of freedom he said that he recognized all of his career service over 70 years from the navy pilot to president of the united states but he ended by saying that it was his humility and his decency that reflected the very best of the american spirit just quoting obama he said those of you who know him president bush 41 this is a gentleman and i just think that's something to think about especially in this political climate and they they developed a closed friendship over the years not only that he also developed speaking of the obamas but also with president clinton as well let's talk about his life here because again and i want to read the statement jamie please stay with me here again if you're just joining us 41st president of the united states uh george herbert walker bush has died at the age of 94. our jamie gangel joins us our special correspondent jamie let's just read some of the statements from the office of george h.w bush and talk about him this is the honorable george h.w bush june 12 1924 to november 30th 2018. george herbert walker bush world war ii naval aviator texas oil pioneer and 41st president of the united states of america died on november 30th 2018. he was 94

00:06:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=360s)

died on november 30th 2018. he was 94 and is survived by his five children and their spouses 17 grandchildren eight great-grandchildren and two siblings he was preceded in death by his wife of 73 years barbara his second child pauline robinson robin bush and his brother prescott and william or bucky bush funeral arrangements will be announced as soon as is practical so let's talk about this a world war ii naval aviator a hero absolutely i mean we will go back in the next couple of days and show some of these pictures but let's remember he was when he signed up for the navy he actually went against his parents wishes they wanted him to go to college but after pearl harbor he decided he had to go fight in world war ii he was the youngest navy pilot when he got his wings he was shot down in japan and almost died and it was a very uh important moment in his life because he lost two of his crewmen and that always stayed with him and then afterwards he went on to really have one of the most extraordinary political resumes from u.s ambassador to the united nations cia director u.s on-boarded china ronald reagan's vice president and then of course president of the united states i think one of the things that you really have to note though were personal relationships

00:08:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=482s)

note though were personal relationships people who know george h.w bush will tell you oh he's a he's my best friend he's a very good friend of mine thousands of people will tell you that and the remarkable thing is they really all were his very good friends he was amazing at reaching out to people and we saw that both in

politics and we saw that in the first desert storm where he put together this extraordinary coalition of countries he was the ultimate diplomat as well as you look at the pictures now i mean he was really the patriarch of a political dynasty and you know it did very well in politics i mean reached the highest he's the president of the united states but we must remember as has been pointed out in uh this the statement that was released he was a texas oil pioneer he was a very successful businessman that he really gave that up to serve his country in another way outside of the military absolutely he there is an expression you see it at his presidential library and in his office his personal motto he had two of them one was faith family and friends and the second was to your point any definition of a successful life must include service to others so while a lot of people think of him as being raised in greenwich and a new england born and bred from a well-to-do family he did go out to texas and make his fortune and it was pretty humble when he started out but once he made money he turned back to

00:10:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=601s)

once he made money he turned back to what he thought was most important which was public service let's go on to talk about as well so he became the 41st president of the united states survived by his five children and their spouses and and let's talk about his wife who preceded him in death as we look at the pictures of barbara bush you hardly saw them apart and when we we knew obviously back in april when he pat when she passed that it broke his heart and remember jamie he went to the hospital after that everyone was concerned because this was a love story of the ages absolutely they were married i believe for 73 years in and of itself remarkable and this was a great love affair they met when they were very young at the school dance he named his plane in world war ii after her and i think one of the things that was at least for me just heartbreaking was when she passed away there were two moments one was when the public came to pay their respects he had been watching on tv and as hard as it was for him he said i have to go to the church and thank them and he sat there for hours greeting people and then the second thing was you know just the pictures of him at her funeral and at the graveside and then as you point out 24 hours later he ended up in the hospital uh and we you know we weren't sure he was

00:12:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=720s)

and we you know we weren't sure he was gonna make it it was it was a very very rough time and it will not go without notice you know after she passed he said he wanted to go up to maine to kennebunkport where he spent every summer of his life except one summer when he was in the war and he had a wonderful summer there this past summer and he saw his granddaughter barbara get married quite recently but there was this sense that he was on borrowed time this past year jamie stand by i want to bring in now cnn's dana bash dana joins us in houston now via telephone this awful news coming in late on a friday night and here on the east coast early into a saturday morning dana but truly a loss not only for america but for the world oh no question um look uh george h.w bush was uh a gentleman first a patriot first uh a uh a a family man someone who uh people around the world saw particularly as he got older and in his in his later years in real time and frankly more in retrospect as as really unique and somebody who served this country with such zeal and with such honor and uh and just just to see the way that he was particularly again in his later years with people in both parties uh members of congress uh people who were running for president

00:14:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=841s)

uh people who were running for president and became president after him uh the relationships that he formed with them uh with their spouses i think really it really says a lot and it is an incredible and incredible loss a life well lived of course uh and george h.w bush said this you know probably more than anyone uh but it is it's a time to celebrate his life but if of course a time to mourn uh the passing of him and in in his life but also what he represented you know it's we i think for the first time um we started calling presidents by numbers and 41 it's important 43 is important and the only reason we did that is because his son ended up becoming the 43rd president of the united states which was which he was extremely proud of and he was often referred to as 41 and h george h bush was referred to as 43 just to make it simpler but it was i think

terms of endearment oh absolutely i covered the bush 43 white house for a while and uh and saw his father you know up close and personal being with with uh with absolute pride but also you know talk about a small club he also knew uh the the incredibly difficult decisions that his son any president would have to make and uh and to have the two of them in that club together was really remarkable and he of course beamed with pride and also was very cautious in helping his son when his son reached out but also taking many many steps back and letting his son find his way let's read the statement dana and discuss it this is from speaking of 43 the 43rd president of the united

00:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=960s)

43 the 43rd president of the united states george w bush's son george h.w bush's son george w bush on the death of his father president george h.w bush said this in a statement jeb neil marvin dora and i are saddened to announce that after 94 remarkable years our dear dad has died george h.w bush was a man of the highest character and the best dad a son or daughter could ask for the entire bush family is deeply grateful for 41's life and and love for the compassion of those who care who have cared and prayed for dad and for the condolences of our friends and fellow citizens that's from his son imagine having to craft that statement right at this moment no and and look just you know in the same calendar year that they lost their mom um and and you know jamie was talking about with you before i came on uh that that was after that when um president uh bush 41 was was sick they weren't sure that he was going to last uh much longer than than than she did first of all because he wasn't well but also because of their incredible love story i mean it was right around then we were learning from our colleague sanjay gupta that you know a broken heart is a real thing it's a physical thing and uh and so these bush children have lost both of their parents uh within a matter of months again two lives incredibly well lived uh and people who live their own way who frankly passed past away their own way uh but you know as children no matter what age your parent is it doesn't make it easy um um well said you're absolutely right uh again if you're just joining us you can see it there on your screen george herbert walker bush the 41st president of the united states has died at the age

00:18:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=1080s)

of the united states has died at the age of 94. i'm speaking now with our dana bash also jamie gangel is on the line and i want to bring in now presidential historian douglas brinkley douglas hello to you i wish we could be speaking under better circumstances right now but quite honestly how will george herbert walker bush be remembered um he's going to be remembered as one of america's great president trump he only served one term but his foreign policy was just amazing don the very fact of the matter was he was a president with the berlin wall came down in 1989 he oversold german reunification working with europe to make sure that went smoothly with president the breakup of the soviet union in 1991 he was a wartime president with the liberation of slate um more commonly known as the gulf war which america won and he showed a limit to american intervention by not ordering our country to go into baghdad but simply liberate kuwait from saddam hussein and uh men in the middle east peace diplomacy for his operation to capture general emanuel noriega out of panama in in um in a successful operation and uh and bust the panamanian drug runner it's a very large foreign policy record and he brought together a team of extraordinary people during his presidency in foreign affairs you know people that work with him like dick cheney and colin powell and others so he's going to be remembering mainly for that foreign policy but also don he had that great resume on the flyboy the world war ii hero the fact that he had been with a early diplomatic envoy to china ambassador to the united nations congressman from texas it's a remarkable american historian he's of course the patriarch of something akin to a

00:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=1200s)

the patriarch of something akin to a dynasty uh have able to have his son become president and have famously 41 and 43 and he is loved by democrats republicans this past week barack obama came to my university rice and he went and paid his respects to um president bush i saw him just a few days before he died he's really loved by all americans also assign the americans with disabilities act that that that's huge

douglas that is very large when i teach i always mention that because people forget that there used to not be handicapped entrances or places in parking lots for people with disabilities and now due to bush that came to fruition he pushed very hard for environmentalism uh particularly on the clean air um and water but particularly with air quality and um you know it was he's really everybody thought he would have been a two-term president but alas when he ran um for re-election in 1992 bill clinton and al gore fashioning themselves as new democrats won but ross perot ran that party race in 1992 getting 19 percent of the vote and bush became a one-term president but he grows in the hearts of americans because he represents some duty honor country i once heard barack obama i i got to talk to him and tell me one of the most moving moments was when he flew to texas to college station and it was raining and they're greeting him in a wheelchair george herbert walker bush because the president was coming to his home state he is the epitome of a gentleman and along with barbara bush who just um passed the past year they were our first couple that's beloved george and barbara bush are like ronnie

[00:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=1320s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=1320s)

george and barbara bush are like ronnie and nancy reagan or jimmy and rosalind carter they're just almost synonymous with each other they had such a long and wonderful marriage yeah and it's just it's a heartbreaking um time for us uh now just getting the news in douglas i want you to stand by if you're just joining us the 41st president of the united states george herbert walker bush has passed away at the age of 94. age of 94 with his life story now here is cnn's anderson cooper george herbert walker bush was born in milton massachusetts on june 12 1924 the son of a future u.s senator he married barbara pierce they had six children two would follow his footsteps into public life george walker bush do solemnly swear in 2001 his eldest son texas governor george walker bush became the 43rd president the first since john quincy adams to follow his father into the white house i'm now about to enter so help me guys so help me god his second son jeb bush served two terms as florida governor and in 2016 unsuccessfully ran for the republican presidential nomination after earning a degree at yale the elder bush moved his family to texas where he made a fortune in the oil business there his budding interest in republican politics blossomed that one fact helped bush become elected to two terms as a congressman but he was defeated in two subsequent bids for the u.s senate his disappointment didn't last long we view this item as a so seriously that we considered a possible turning point in the history of the united nations his political profile was high enough that president nixon appointed him u.s ambassador to the united nations later he became chairman of the republican national committee president ford sent him to china to head up the u.s liaison office as part of a new initiative in u.s chinese relations and in 1975 bush came home to become director of the cia a job associates said he truly loved he left that job when democrat jimmy carter

[00:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=1440s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=1440s)

left that job when democrat jimmy carter became president and soon became a player in national republican politics bush ran against ronald reagan in the 1980 gop primaries winning some but eventually withdrawing when it became clear he wouldn't be the nominee but reagan believed the texas oilman could help him win over the party's moderates and named him as his running mate as vice president bush spent a lot of time on the road he was reagan's heir apparent in 1988. i want a kinder and gentler nation like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky [Applause] he also made a campaign promise that would come back to haunt him read my lips taxes the selection of a running mate surprised many my choice for the vice presidency is senator dan quayle of indiana the voters supported the ticket so help me god as the nation's 41st president bush's focus returned to international affairs he presided over the collapse of communism in the former soviet union and the end of the cold war he ordered u.s troops into latin america to capture panamanian dictator manuel noriega the responsibility for sending someone's son and today daughter into harm's way rests on the shoulders of the present so it is the most difficult decision he would order u.s troops into combat again allied with dozens of other countries to free kuwait from iraqi dictator saddam hussein's aggression the first gulf war didn't last long in less than six weeks the iraqis were booted from kuwait but saddam hussein remained in power and held a grudge years later a car bombing plot hatched in iraq

targeted mr bush during a visit to kuwait if you've got to have security if i have to have it with the secret service i've got the best there is and we will continue to be careful the united states retaliated with a missile attack against iraq's intelligence headquarters

00:26:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=1563s)

the man behind the plot would not be captured for another decade and the second president bush ordered a u.s invasion of iraq ladies and gentlemen we got him at home president bush was hammered by critics for compromising with congress on tax increases and breaking his no new taxes promises well it was a mistake to go along with the democratic tax increase and i admit it in a three-way battle with bill clinton and ross perot he lost he lived long enough to see his son accomplish what he did not win a second term in the white house so help me god congratulations at his son's request he also briefly re-entered the public spotlight grateful for the hard work the aftermath of the devastating tsunami he joined with former president bill clinton to help raise money for victims of the 2004 earthquake and tsunamis in asia the two reunited in late 2005 to help the victims of hurricane katrina as a young navy pilot bush's plane was shot down and he had to bail out over the pacific as a far older man he would jump from planes again to celebrate his 80th 85th and 90th birthdays it feels good there's an exhilaration it sends a message around with these guys all around the globe that just because you're an old guy you don't have to sit around drooling in the corner get out and do something get out and enjoy life it was a life that brought george herbert walker bush back to the white house in 2011 to receive the nation's highest civilian honor the presidential medal of freedom those of you who know him this is a gentleman inspiring citizens to become points of light in service to others his life is a testament that public service is a noble calling at his beloved wife barbara's funeral president bush posed for a photo with other surviving former presidents the years had taken their toll on his

00:28:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=1680s)

the years had taken their toll on his body but his dignity and resolve shine through part of a graceful final act in a life of public service i do not fear what is ahead for our problems are large but our heart is larger our challenges are great but our will is greater [Music] president h w bush dead at the age of 94. presidential adviser david gergen uh joins us now uh david just as as anderson was saying it in in the piece there i was thinking a man of great dignity he was a great dignity and in the rearview mirror of history that dignity his sense of restraint uh his his dedication to service uh all look uh better and better don't they yeah i i think that you know we've gone through a lot of tumult uh since then but he was he was the last of a group of presidents we call our world war ii presidents uh men who who came of age in the war and became what tom brokaw's rightly called the greatest generation because they came home from service as george h.w bush did and took off their uniforms and went to work to move the country forward um and we had presidents from kennedy through george h.w bush we call our world war ii presidents and so it's a passing uh not only of a man who commands enormous respect now but i think a passing of a generation yeah he was certainly a man of quiet character he did not like to pat himself on the back he wasn't braggadocious but as douglas brinkley pointed out he will be remembered for his great foreign policy acumen i think that's right especially in the way that he brought the cold war to an end we didn't fire a shot but we won the cold war and very importantly he he made it clear he didn't want anybody

00:30:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=1800s)

he made it clear he didn't want anybody in his administration to dance on the grave of the soviet union but rather to treat them with more respect and to try to integrate them into the into the community of peaceful nations uh that obviously worked for a while it hasn't worked you know right now that that whole effort is under threat but nonetheless bringing the cold war to a successful and peaceful conclusion and then very very importantly uh he was extremely successful uh moving forward with the reintegration of germany country which had led to plunge the world into world wars twice in the first half of the 20th century and the way he handled germany and the german integration has contributed to a much more peaceful and democratic germany ever since [Music] can we talk about how the way he dealt with um his predecessors

and the way he dealt with other presidents um you could not have asked for a classier uh handoff to a president than than this from one to another oh i think so i think it worked both ways the past of course it was an easy but nonetheless smooth transition from reagan to bush from a president to a vice president uh but then after he lost you know it was a heartbreaking loss for him after one term but nonetheless he passed on the presidency to the jimmy carter and his team uh i thought with uh with an enormous grace and it went smoothly and you know after after george h.w bush left office he became friends with carter uh and then he became really good friends with with bill clinton and they bill clinton was almost like a son they never had in the bush household and it was sweet to see that because that i think it really was one of the things that contributed to in the country a sense of we're all in this together talk to us about then about the 90s about that handoff having

00:32:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=1921s)

about that handoff having been a presidential advisor i mean these were the this was a the time of the first iraq war uh and then having as you said to lose to bill clinton and then turn and there they are at the white house there during the inauguration and then turning over the levels of power uh to a democratic challenger in a hard very hard-fought campaign yeah let me just say it's the hours late and i he he was i'm glad you helped me correct that smoothly he was obviously george h.w bush was obviously defeated by bill clinton and it was a handoff to the clinton that i was really talking about which did go smoothly and as i say they later the the two of them later became friends but it was hard for george h w bush to to lose that election um you know he has he had he had climbed to a very high approval rate by something like 88 after uh he went into uh kuwait and liberated kuwait from saddam hussein um and then also had the restraint not to go into iraq uh he his numbers went up to 88 and then over the next six months or so he dropped reciprocally dropped by 50 points in six months and he never got the credit at the polls that he historians have given him about that but i remember hearing him tell the story a couple of years later he had a great sense of humor and i remember when he jumped out of an airplane after he left the presidency uh and he was like well into his 70s i think with that maybe it was late 60s but he was he was quite a long age for him to jump out of an airplane um was was remarkable but he said when he got down to down to the ground he was taking off his parachute barbara walked over to him and said george i haven't seen anybody fall that far that fast last ran for president uh i want you to stand by uh david i want to bring in now cnn's wolf blitzer wolf blitzer is

00:34:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=2040s)

wolf blitzer is traveling with the current president of 45 and planis areas now wolf if you can hear me wolf can you hear me i hear you okay wolf took over wolf you became white house correspondent uh shortly after uh bush left office if if my if my timing is accurate but certainly his legacy carried on into the administration that you were covering that white house for well i was the pentagon correspondent for cnn while he was president of the united states don and and i remember vividly covering uh all of his aspects as president of the united states including of course during the first gulf war operation desert shield and operation desert storm remember it was in august of 1990 he was president of the united states dick cheney was then the defense secretary and uh all of a sudden saddam hussein invaded kuwait it was august 1st august 2nd 1990 and there was enormous uncertainty what was going to happen next were the iraqis they were moving through kuwait like a knife goes through a butter there was nothing stopping the iraqis from continuing through kuwait into saudi arabia to the oil fields in the eastern part of saudi arabia and president bush he had to make some critically important decisions and he made very important decisions to send a very strong signal through the defense secretary through the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff general colin powell at the time to let saddam hussein know that if he moved further it was going to be the u.s was going to respond militarily eventually as we all know in january of 1991 the u.s did respond an operation desert shield became operation desert storm and within a few weeks the air war had done its mission then the ground war kuwait was liberated president george h.w bush clearly was very popular as a result u.s troops uh and the us deployed more than half a million troops

00:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=2160s)

deployed more than half a million troops in the persian gulf area to get the job done uh and it was done relatively quickly uh and and then the u.s pulled out did not go into iraq itself pulled out got the job done and at that point you know as david gergen was pointing out the the president was extremely that is uh cnn's wolf blitzer uh wolf blitzer is uh in buenos aires and obviously there's just some technical issues there we'll get wolf back up wolf explaining the just the the foreign policy expertise of this particular president of george h.w bush as douglas brinkley pointed out that will be his legacy just how well he handled foreign policy and because he was a a man a man who loves of quiet calm and reserved he didn't like to brag about his accomplishments in that way i want to bring in back in david gergen who has been who's a presidential advisor to pick up on what wolf blitzer was talking about we have to remember that during that time david um there was the the the first gulf war that we dealt with operation desert shield which became operation desert storm but then i mean it lasted for less than a month from january 16 1991 to february 27 of 1991 where um the u.s declared victory in iraq i'm wondering how much that had to do with the outcome of that particular election well you know the um there are two things i think that from a policy standpoint stand out and we can move to the politics of it that were i think particularly instructive for how to handle foreign policy well and be successful at it uh the first was that before the united he committed the united states to go in and kick saddam hussein out uh he he formed an international coalition of the willing jim baker the secretary of state traveled all across much of the world to

[00:38:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=2281s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=2281s)

traveled all across much of the world to bring nations together to support that effort and also to help pay for it and at the end of the day the united states actually made money i mean by the time everybody paid their bills we actually wound up in the black which never happens but the important thing was to have the coalition because it gave moral force to the notion of you know why saddam it was legal to cut it to kick so that i'm out of there but the other thing that was extremely important and because it was not a lesson that was followed by a son necessarily and that was uh when we knocked saddam out of kuwait and he started retreating his forces were retreating back in toward baghdad there was a lot of pressure from some of the junior people around george hw bush to go into iraq and go after them to topple saddam hussein right there and and bush refused he he was very restrained about it he did it for two reasons one he didn't like the idea of shooting soldiers in the back as they were retreating but very very importantly he had made a commitment to the saudis and others that once we kicked saddam out of kuwait we would not follow him into iraq and george bush was a man of his word that's why people trusted him and why he commanded so much respect was he refused he didn't want to break his promise uh to those countries even though there was this bill building pressure uh and that that made a big big difference uh how uh later presidents for example barack obama himself made it very clear when he came into the office that one of the men he most respected was george h.w bush in a way he conducted foreign policy he very much respected brent scowcroft who was his national security adviser and those lessons were passed from one president to another in a very very successful way and i think again george h.w bush deserves a lot of credit for doing that it did not give him the political victory that he expected you know he assumed that the country uh

[00:40:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=2400s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=2400s)

you know he assumed that the country uh would be uh grateful um he didn't go out and try to sell it hard he was bashful about that and he just never got the the the he didn't get the votes from the voters they were they were they wanted to move on to other things um but nonetheless as as doug brinkley said it does go down in the in the books as a highly successful foreign policy and one that continues to be a model for today's world and we ought to be paying a lot more attention frankly than we do well said i want you to stand by david gergen more on the life of george herbert walker bush now from our jamie gangel so help me god congratulations george h.w bush may have sat in the oval office for just four years but his legacy will last for generations in foreign policy this will not stand this aggression against kuwait bush's coalition building during desert storm was unprecedented uniting nearly 40 countries and ending the conflict in a matter of weeks a playbook for all presidents that followed if you want to know how to fight a war take a look at the way george bush fought the first gulf war the cold war ended on his watch without a shot taken or a bomb dropped he

didn't bloat because it would not be in his nature to gloat and someone else's misfortune that same diplomatic restraint also shown when the iron curtain collapsed on the day that the berlin wall came down we all went over to the oval office to tell president bush that he had to go to berlin you wanted him i wanted him to go to berlin and he said and he said what would i do dance on the wall he said this is a german moment i thought the president of the united states to step back this is a german moment i think he deserves credit

00:42:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=2521s)

deserves credit for getting the world off in the right direction at the end of the cold war the cold war being over was not an excuse to pack up and go home it was an excuse to build a new world of cooperation time will prove that he was right in wanting an integrated cooperative world of strong security but lots of freedom lots of democracy lots of interaction between people on the domestic front bush is credited for making improvements to the clean air act and signing the americans with disabilities act critical legislation that revolutionized access for millions including bush himself when he suffered from parkinson's in his final years that community i think holds my grandfather up in a hero he wasn't their likely hero you know they have all these big kind of liberal advocates that advocated for their movement but my grandfather's the guy who got it done it's not just through things like wheelchair access but it's changing the culture of how people with disabilities you know can shine and let their abilities shine and have jobs in places where they might not have jobs so i think that's an awesome legacy another legacy many will remember bush for this just because you're an old guy you don't have to sit around drooling in the corner get out and do something get out and enjoy life bush did just that jumping over and over and over again even for his 90th birthday i think the reason he did it is because he's got a young heart and that it's the thrill of the jump and once he did it the first time uh became a natural for the next four or five times and while bush 41 disliked the word dynasty no question he was thrilled george walker bush do you solemnly swear when his oldest son became the 43rd

00:44:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=2640s)

when his oldest son became the 43rd president of the united states he felt a sense of pride and and i was grateful for that i i was happy that he was happy did he give you any advice no no and he was very guarded about giving me advice unless i asked for it but for many bush 41 will long be remembered for what he did after the white house the family legacy isn't about who's president or first lady or governor the family legacy is the the legacy of service he turned a campaign vision into a post-presidential mission state leaders i want a kinder and gentler nation like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky that call prompted millions to volunteer and bush and wife barbara did their part too helping to raise an estimated one billion dollars for charity it does fit my dad's philosophy that the definition of a successful person is not just about how much money you make or the w's on your in your column it's about helping others it's about acting on your heart is there a phrase that you think embodies him um i would say it is service above self a legacy that led him to receive the highest civilian award in the united states the presidential medal of freedom his life is a testament that public service is a noble calling we honor george herbert walker bush for service to america that spanned nearly 70 years and that was president obama that was february 15 of 2011 when he gave and george h.w bush received the presidential medal of freedom at the white house a white house that he once presided over and speaking of president obama i want to read this statement it's coming from the office of barack and michelle obama

00:46:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=2761s)

the office of barack and michelle obama by the way president obama just visited george h.w bush president 41 h.w bush three days ago three days ago and so he says he and the former first lady say in a statement of the passing of george h.w bush america has lost a patriot and humble servant in george herbert walker bush while our hearts are heavy today they are also filled with gratitude not merely for the years he spent as our 41st president but for the more than 70 years he spent in devoted service to the country he loved from a decorated naval aviator who nearly gave his life in world war ii to commander in chief of our armed forces with plenty of posts along the way ambassador to the united nations director of central intelligence u.s envoy

to china vice president of the united states again i am reading from a statement from the office of barack and michelle obama george h.w bush's life is a testament to the notion that public service is a noble joyous calling and he did tremendous good along the journey expanding america's promise to new immigrants and people with disabilities reducing the scourge of nuclear weapons and building a broad international coalition to expel a dictator from kuwait and when democratic revolutions bloomed across eastern europe it was his steady diplomatic hand that made possible an achievement once thought anything but ending the cold war without firing a shot it is it's a legacy of service that may never be matched even though he'd want all of us to try after 73 years of marriage george and barbara bush are together again now two points of light that never dimmed two points of light that ignited countless others with their example the example of a man who even after

00:48:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=2880s)

the example of a man who even after commanding the world's mightiest military once said i got more of a kick out of being one of the founders of the ymca in midland texas back in 1952 than almost anything i've done what a testament to the qualities that make this country great service to others commitment to leaving behind something better sacrifice in the name of lifting this country closer to its founding ideals our thoughts are with the entire bush family tonight and all who were inspired by george and barbara's example from the former president barack obama the former first lady michelle obama on the passing of president george h.w bush i want to bring you now jeffrey engel he is a director of the center for presidential history at southern methodist university he joins us now by phone i think what the former president said is true a statesman in many ways who were who was as humble as anyone yes he really should be remembered as perhaps the last great gentleman of washington dc he really was from another era as previous commentators have mentioned from the world war ii era but also from an era where you really could reach across the aisle and even if you disagreed with your political opponents still see them as loyal and faithful americans and he really was a a man who represented the idea of cooperation and of negotiation as much as partisan victory um it is believed or you believe that he governed one of the most successful during the one the most successful times in history why do you say that well i think actually we could very easily say that he's the most successful one-term president in history and i think the reason is that he govern during what is arguably the most complex and difficult international system uh an international series of problems

00:50:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=3001s)

uh an international series of problems in american history perhaps uh with only the challenge being franklin roosevelt in the height of world war ii i mean as previous people have said during his his time in office the the cold war ended the entire structure of the international system ended germany which was the great problem of the 20th century in many ways was solved through bush's leadership and that's not even mentioning events such as the invasion of panama or the uh obviously the defense of kuwait and the uh re the conquest of kuwait and defeat of iraq during the gulf war and in a sense you know it's really almost difficult to imagine that all of those events occurred during a four-year term in fact to be honest all those events occurred by and large during the first half of bush's presidency if we think about president donald trump at this point that he has not faced any of the diff thank goodness he has not faced any of the difficult international problems that bush not only faced but really conquered and succeeded in during the first two years of his administration just remarkable remarkable series of events to occur during one presidency standby please jeffrey engel i want to get now to anita mcbride she joins us via phone as well she was a director of white house personnel under president george h.w bush thank you so much for joining us ms mcbride and i'm so sorry for your loss thank you so much for having me on i know my my heart is crushed and anybody who had the privilege to work for and know this incredible wonderful man like jeff angle and others said the statement from president mrs obama i mean i am one of those people who was inspired and so was my husband and that's how we met thanks to george h.w bush and ronald reagan um it's just it's personal but also an example for the country that's a big loss for everyone right now there's so much to talk to you about but i just i have to say you know we keep

00:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=3120s)

i just i have to say you know we keep talking about him being president of the united states we we would be remiss he was the vice president of the united states and served in that capacity with dignity as well as did the former first lady um right barbara bush right yeah absolutely and that's you know and in fact my husband was his personal aide as vice president and then in the presidential years when i was you know on president reagan's staff and so you have to uh to know george h.w bushmore as president and his vice president but no president can ask for a more loyal servant a loyal public servant it was just a great example for all of us working in the white house young people from all over the country learning under these two incredible leaders [Music] it's this stood out to me and i want you to respond to this because you mentioned the former president barack obama it says even after commanding the world's mightiest military he once said i got more of a kick out of being one of the founders of the ymca in midland texas back in 1952 than almost anything i've done that's humility it's it's incredible and if you go to his boy boyhood well the boyhood home of george w bush in midland is actually you know was the home to george h.w bush and barbara bush where they raised their family you know the only site in the country that is home to two presidents and two governors because jeb lived there too and a first lady and you really see what a humble life they had there and the big you know move of course as we all know from connecticut and down to the west texas plains it's just a person who was always a part of this community no matter where he lived here in new york where i am right now i was just thinking about his years as the un you know ambassador and then of course as the

00:54:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=3240s)

as the envoy to china writing he and barbara bush riding their bikes around peking at the time it's just wherever he went he was a fixture in the community and certainly left his mark and her mark everywhere the director of white house personnel under george h.w bush anita mcbride we have been speaking to her anita thank you speaking to her absolutely and again i'm sorry for your loss thank you john she has been talking about george bush the man the family man here is cnn's wolf blitzer on the story of george h.w bush the family man he trusted others and inspired their loyalty and above all he found joy in his family and his faith those are the words of an admiring son george w bush writing about his father george h.w bush grew up in connecticut his father was a banker and eventually a u.s senator in 1945 he married barbara pierce daughter of the publisher of mccall's magazine more than anyone she was his companion and sustaining light in peace and in war he would complete 58 combat missions these were tough days but he had something that kept him going and if you look closely at the photographs of the planes he flew you will find what kept him going and the name he had painted under his cockpit barbara a daughter robin died of leukemia at age three four sons george w jeb neil and marvin and one daughter doro were adults by the time he became president over time gatherings at the family compound in maine became larger and more raucous what is it like doral and since you can't agree on everything when inside the family you disagree with a president or a governor um we there isn't a lot of that actually

00:56:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=3362s)

we there isn't a lot of that actually when i spend the weekend with my brother or my father we sort of talk about fishing or laughing and it's not like that but i think people voice their opinions although they live public lives the bushes guarded their families privacy and resented outsiders attempts to pry in or to play up stories of rivalry between the father and son presidents we know who we are we know how we get along and there's no rivalry there's no kind of trying to live up to something or or bring the boy up or i mean it's crazy we're a close loving family larry and these speculative stories just drove me crazy how about you well they are nutty there was people saying we wanted jeb to be president not george that's who who writes things two books were written about me by someone who never said spoke to me ever so i mean i think you just overlook those they're just not true but you got angrier than your husband didn't you always shortly before the start of the 1991 gulf war president bush summed up his feelings about his family in a letter to his children i said i had a little plaque made it says cavu c-a-v-u cavu was the kind of weather we navy pilots wanted when we were to fly off our carrier in the pacific we had a little navigational instrumentation so we wanted cavu ceiling

and visibility unlimited because of the five of you whose hugs i can still feel whose own lives have made me so proud i can confidently tell my guardian angel that my life is cavu and it will be that way until i die all because of you wolf blitzer cnn washington dignity class that was wolf blitzer reporting and wolff joins us now live wolf we've been talking about the family man his primary causes included literacy

00:58:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=3481s)

his primary causes included literacy cancer research volunteerism he and his wife barbara would raise more than 1 billion dollars for charity in their years after the white house he really was an amazing person and having covered him during many of those years when he was in public office you could see the decency don that he brought brought to the the presidency dr brought to all the positions he had as cia director u.s ambassador to china as vice president of the united states and and after he left office he he built a very strong relationship with a man who actually beat him uh back in 1992 bill clinton and they worked together in many areas worked together with all the subsequent presidents of the united states including his own son you know donna jeff zeleny our white house correspondent is here we're at the g20 summit uh in argentina right now and uh as we know uh president george h.w bush he attended many of these kinds of international summits and jeff we're just getting in a statement right now from the current president of the united states we are indeed wolf we're getting a statement from president donald trump just a few moments ago and he says this let's read it he says melania and i join with a grieving nation to mourn the loss of former president george h.w bush who passed away last night through his essential authenticity disarming wit an unwavering commitment to faith family and country president bush inspired generations of this fellow americans to public service to be in his words a thousand points of light eliminating the greatness the hope and opportunity of america to the world the president president trump goes on to say this president bush always found a way to set the bar higher as a young man he captured the yale baseball team and then went on to serve as the youngest aviator in the united states navy during the second world war later in life president trump says in the statement he rose to the pinnacle of american politics as a congressman from texas envoy to china

01:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=3600s)

from texas envoy to china director of central intelligence vice president of eight years to the president ronald reagan and finally to president of the united states with sound judgment common sense and unflappable leadership president bush guided our nation and the world to a peaceful and victorious conclusion of the cold war as president he set the stage for decades of prosperity that it followed and through all of that he accomplished he remained humble followed the quiet call to service that gave him a clear sense of direction president trump concludes in this statement tonight along with the full life of service to country we will remember president bush for his devotion to family especially the love of his life barbara his example lives on and will continue to stir future americans to pursue a greater cause he concludes with this our hearts ache with his loss and we with the american people send our prayers to the entire bush family as we honor the life and a legacy of 41. so wolf that statement from president donald trump here in buenos aires at the g20 summit certainly a passing of the torch president bush 41 there is this president's club as you know and president trump does not necessarily fit into that so easily of course uh jeb bush ran against donald trump lost that republican primary both george h.w bush and barbara bush campaigned vigorously for their son but it is a moment here in american history and indeed the world history where politics set aside for a moment tribal politics at least and we celebrate this life of george h.w bush and as you said earlier extraordinary how he uh really became so close to bill clinton who defeated him in 1992 and just three days ago barack obama uh the most recent democratic president visited president bush in houston so again this is a passing of the torch but that news statement tonight from president trump and we're here in argentina right now buenos aires at the g20 summit uh i suspect the world leaders who have

01:02:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=3720s)

i suspect the world leaders who have gathered here the leaders of the 20 industrialized nations most industrialized nations they will be paying their respects their tribute to this great american no question about it and these meetings are resuming tomorrow and this is the in this economic forum and this uh summit actually came after president george h.w bush was in office this summit came after the 2008 financial crisis but certainly it is one of these gatherings of world leaders that president george h.w bush loves so much look at his record of service from spanning the lifetime of a world war ii fighter pilot through the house of representatives cia vice president united states for eight years president for four years he certainly was a worldwide leader so no question tomorrow uh here in buenos aires uh today actually no sorry uh there certainly will be a sense of remembrance for this president as we mark a point in time here uh and this is someone who uh history will remember so well not for his uh for losing his uh after his first term but for all he served to america and certainly this is something that we're remembering tonight here as we just saw in that statement and what is clear is such a decent person and as we just saw what a wonderful family man loved his family and the grandchildren the great grandchildren they're all paying their respects right now no question about it and george h.w bush was someone who yes he was 94 years old but he was the youngest 94 year old person perhaps in america he would jump out of airplanes every year for his birthday he would be out on the campaign trail i recall him being out there campaigning for george w bush when he was running in 1999 and 2000 in those iowa caucuses uh of course the same ground that his father was passing on in 1980 and this is someone who loved family loved life he was the chairman of the republican national committee during watergate and after that he went on to lead the cia and after that he went on to other

01:04:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=3840s)

and after that he went on to other points of service so this is someone who it really is a an american a legacy that we don't see anymore not just the family name of bush but for so much more of his service because if you think about that resume he brought when he was elected president of the united states uh he served two terms as vice president of the united states with ronald reagan but in 1988 he was elected took office on january 20 1989. he brought all that service all that record from congress from the cia from u.s ambassador to china he had an incredible a resume no question you could not think of someone stepping into the role into the oval office with a resume like that never mind the fact that he served as vice president he ran against ronald reagan that is an example of of a moment in time we don't see necessarily as much today but this is a someone who was who was born to the job in many ways but came of age in the job through many different ways and of course the first gulf war this is someone who uh who was you know viewed as as an as an adversary by so many there was an assassination attempt on his life of course as you remember after the gulf war so this is someone who span partisanship at this moment in time as we think of all our tribal politics or so locked into place this is a man a leader a president who was so much more than they are after his name he was a true american hero and a legend you know that came through don as i remember having interviewed him on several occasions over the years in various capacities he was such a decent strong person who was so deeply committed to doing the right thing didn't always get it right but he was so deeply committed to doing his best for the american people and and all of us are going to remember him very very fondly and emotionally as we go through these next several days and weeks you're absolutely right jeff selene said he was the the youngest 94 year old that he know we listen we should point out that he jumped out of planes not only on his 75th birthday wolf

01:06:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=3960s)

75th birthday wolf but on his 80th his 85th and his 90th birthdays as well so listen he was a daredevil in a certain sense but you're right his the humility of this man because it took decades for him to even talk about talk publicly about his experiences in war and this is a quote from him he said it was just part of of my duty people say war hero how come a guy who gets his airplane shot down is a hero and a guy who's good enough that he doesn't get his shot down is not that's what he told cnn in 2003 yeah truly an amazing person uh and you know when we look back on his accomplishments and once again i just want to remember what he did during the first gulf war back in 1991 when saddam hussein had invaded kuwait he created this very very impressive coalition of more than 20 or 30 nations they built up more than half a million u.s troops in the

persian gulf to go in and liberate kuwait and did it within a matter of weeks an air war followed by a ground war and then the u.s pulled out very very quickly from that region and he was a as you remember he was enormously popular as a result uh but you know politics faded relatively quickly and in 1992 when he was up for re-election he was defeated yeah and we're looking at pictures of him now uh in 1990 in saudi arabia wolfe stand by please we're going to get back to wolf who has done so much reporting and even reporting in washington during the time that george w bush h.w bush was president of the united states i want to get to cnn's kaylee hartong who is outside the bush family residence in houston texas katie kaylee good evening to you where you are what's going on hey well don just in the time since this news broke we've seen the television trucks line up on the streets surrounding the bush

01:08:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=4081s)

on the streets surrounding the bush residents this is the home that george h.w bush and barbara shared for many years here in houston they returned here in 1993 after leaving the white house and and as the mayor of houston said in a statement he just released they could have gone anywhere after leaving washington but they chose to come here to this beloved city where his political career actually began as the chair of the harris county republican party here in houston barbara and george beloved figures themselves very familiar figures whether you saw them at an astros baseball game sitting behind home plate or at a texans football game ever since that team moved here to houston people saw them as relatable as other members of this community but there is very little relatable about the events that will transpire in this city over the coming days we understand the family the bush family will be congregating here in houston in the next couple of days there will be a private service held at st martin's episcopal church the church that george and barbara attended for many years here together the same church where barbara's life was remembered just just a couple of blocks behind us here and then president bush will be flown to d.c and there as men before him of his stature have been remembered he will lie in state in the u.s capitol where the public will be able to view him and then there will be a funeral service at the national cathedral there in washington d.c as well before he is again returned home here to texas then we will see the larger service at st martin's episcopal church which we could expect i would think to be something similar to what we saw for barbara bush but of course on another scale and then his body will be taken by motorcade to his presidential library in college station that's about an hour and a half drive from here and there he will be laid to rest alongside barbara and their daughter robin who passed away many years ago

01:10:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=4200s)

robin who passed away many years ago but you just already you get the sense as neighbors here you know come out of their homes and look across the street again to those relatable and beloved neighbors they once knew as barbara and george h.w bush to recognize that that era has now come to an end with his passing and folks are up late into the night with the sad news and some will be waking up to it tomorrow kaylee hartong outside the bush family residence in houston texas thank you for that this is cnn breaking news i'm don lemon here's our breaking news the 41st president of the united states george herbert walker bush has died at the age of 94. this is a statement that is coming in now from the bush family jeb neal marvin dorrow and i are saddened to announce that after 94 remarkable years our dear dad has died george h.w bush was a man of the highest character and the best dad a son or daughter could ask for the entire bush family is deeply grateful for 41's life and love for the compassion of those who have cared and prayed for dad and for the condolences of our friends and fellow citizens cnn's anderson cooper now with the life and times of the 41st president of the united states george h.w bush george herbert walker bush was born in milton massachusetts on june 12 1924 the son of a future u.s senator he married barbara pierce they had six children two would follow his footsteps into public life george walker bush do solemnly swear in 2001 his eldest son texas governor george walker bush became the 43rd president the first since john quincy adams to follow his father into the white house i'm now about to enter so help me god so help me god his second son jeb bush served two terms as florida governor and in 2016 unsuccessfully ran for the

01:12:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=4321s)

and in 2016 unsuccessfully ran for the republican presidential nomination after earning a degree at yale the elder bush moved his family to texas where he made a fortune in the oil business there his budding interest in republican politics blossomed that one fact helped bush become elected to two terms as a congressman but he was defeated in two subsequent bids for the u.s senate his disappointment didn't last long we view this item as a so seriously that we considered a possible turning point in the history of the united nations his political profile was high enough that president nixon appointed him u.s ambassador to the united nations later he became chairman of the republican national committee president ford sent him to china to head up the u.s liaison office as part of a new initiative in u.s chinese relations and in 1975 bush came home to become director of the cia a job associates said he truly loved he left that job when democrat jimmy carter became president and soon became a player in national republican politics bush ran against ronald reagan in the 1980 gop primaries winning some but eventually withdrawing when it became clear he wouldn't be the nominee but reagan believed the texas oilman could help him win over the party's moderates and named him as his running mate as vice president bush spent a lot of time on the road he was reagan's heir apparent in 1988 i want a kinder and gentler nation like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky [Applause] he also made a campaign promise that would come back to haunt him read my lips the selection of a running mate surprised many my choice for the vice presidency is senator dan quayle of indiana voters supported the ticket so help me god as the nation's 41st president bush's focus returned to international affairs he presided over the collapse of communism in the former soviet union and the end of the cold war

01:14:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=4440s)

and the end of the cold war he ordered u.s troops into latin america to capture panamanian dictator manuel noriega the responsibility for sending someone's son and today daughter into harm's way rests on the shoulders of the present so it is the most difficult decision he would order u.s troops into combat again allied with dozens of other countries to free kuwait from iraqi dictator saddam hussein's aggression the first gulf war didn't last long in less than six weeks the iraqis were booted from kuwait but saddam hussein remained in power and held a grudge years later a car bombing plot hatched in iraq targeted mr bush during a visit to kuwait if you got to have security if i have to have it with the secret service i've got the best there is and we will continue to be careful the united states retaliated with a missile attack against iraq's intelligence headquarters the man behind the plot would not be captured for another decade and the second president bush ordered a u.s invasion of iraq ladies and gentlemen we got him at home president bush was hammered by critics for compromising with congress on tax increases and breaking his no new taxes promises well it was a mistake to go along with the democratic tax increase and i admit it in a three-way battle with bill clinton and ross perot he lost he lived long enough to see his son accomplish what he did not win a second term in the white house so help me god congratulations at his son's request he also briefly re-entered the public spotlight in the aftermath of the devastating tsunami he joined with former president bill clinton to help raise money for victims of the 2004 earthquake and tsunamis in asia the two reunited in late 2005 to help the victims of hurricane katrina as a young navy pilot bush's plane was

01:16:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=4561s)

as a young navy pilot bush's plane was shot down and he had to bail out over the pacific as a far older man he would jump from planes again to celebrate his 80th 85th and 90th birthdays it feels good there's an exhilaration it sends a message around with these guys all around the globe that just because you're an old guy you don't have to sit around drooling in the corner get out and do something get out and enjoy life it was a life that brought george herbert walker bush back to the white house in 2011 to receive the nation's highest civilian honor the presidential medal of freedom those of you who know him this is a gentleman inspiring citizens to become points of light in service to others his life is a testament that public service is a noble calling at his beloved wife barbara's funeral president bush posed for a photo with other surviving former presidents the years had taken their toll on his body but his dignity and resolve shine through part of a graceful final act in a life of public service i do not fear what is ahead for our problems are large but our heart is larger our challenges are great but our will is greater george h.w bush dead at the age of 94. let's bring in now cnn's dana bash jamie gangel and wolf blitzer what a night um everyone and you jamie i want to go to

you first because you knew the president well um you're friends with this family before i get you to respond i just want to play something here this is during the final days in office when he left a note for bill clinton i want you all to watch this january 1993 his final days in office president bush was thinking of someone else

01:18:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=4681s)

thinking of someone else his successor i'm sitting here now alone the desk clear the picture's gone i'm dreading the next few minutes walking over and saying goodbye to the staff i'm gonna leave the note on the desk for bill clinton it looks a little lonely sitting there president clinton still has the letter dear bill when i walked into this office just now i felt the same sense of wonder and respect that i felt four years ago there will be very tough times made even more difficult by criticism you may not think it's fair i'm not a very good one to give advice but just don't let the critics discourage you or push you off course i'm rooting hard for you good luck george how'd you feel when you wrote that letter the first time i was moved by it he revealed his true self he made us feel at home as much as he could total class jamie it says so much about the man he was he had respect for the office respect for his successor right as bill clinton just said when he talked about the letter total class this was after a bitter loss that president bush himself said he felt that he had lost to the lesser man yet he rose to the occasion and what's even more i think remarkable than his leaving that letter because that was something that he felt was part of the office and important to do was the relationship that he built with bill clinton years later when his son had them come together to do tsunami relief and it started off for a cause but it

01:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=4800s)

and it started off for a cause but it really did develop into a very close relationship president george w bush used to joke that bill clinton had become his brother from another mother but it really spoke to the man that he could look beyond what was undoubtedly you know other than the loss of his daughter robin to leukemia when she was a baby this was the most painful loss certainly of his political career yet he did the right thing total class we're looking at live pictures now from the white house the flags are at half staff now the flag at the white house and they will be around the country but jamie another question for you you've been in touch with the family how do you prepare for this you know i i don't they've he has had health challenges for a while but he's 94 years old and i think at a certain point they all sort of felt i certainly felt you know what he he's got more than nine lives he fooled us over and over again i want to share one thing that was not public tonight and that was there was a code word that was used tonight to tell family and friends that he had passed and that code word was kavu c a v u and for anyone who has been a pilot it is familiar for those who aren't it stands for uh ceiling and visibility unlimited and he had a plaque in his office that said that he always said that he

01:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=4920s)

that said that he always said that he felt that it represented his life the sky was the limit he had had everything and i think it was a great and fitting tribute to him that that was in effect the way his passing his his send-off was been notified to everybody well after serving our country um with with honor for so long he didn't want to talk about it for decades he did not want to talk about his military service it was too painful for him he he kept it to himself and that was part of that world war ii generation uh that they really didn't want to talk a lot of these men and women they didn't really want to talk about their experiences and very often those experiences were painful in losing friends close friends uh in the service of the war the service of our country and it was difficult only later in subsequent years did he open up to a certain degree but it was never all that easy for him to do it he didn't want to brag about it didn't want to talk about being a military hero he wanted to get on move on with his family move on and do what was right for his country and he took all these specific challenges and he did them well and it was really a a remarkable experience that he had and he shared it and people are going to be remembering in the coming hours and days and weeks they're going to be remembering just as jamie just did telling us stories that we weren't all that familiar with they're going to be sharing certain moments that will be very very powerful for all of us wolf when you when you look at his

resume you know you look at how he served the captain of the yale university baseball team that he was he sir he ran unsuccessfully to the senate uh and but then went and then became the best ambassador of the united nations as chairman of the republican national committee and then on and on and on ended up becoming the president of the united states and a father to a president of

01:24:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=5041s)

states and a father to a president of the united states who has a resume like that anymore or ever and he was he was the cia director if you're you drive around cia headquarters in northern virginia it's the george h w bush cia headquarters named after him a lot of the things he was doing during his years as the cia director were probably not going to know all the full extent of all those details for many years to come because they still remain highly classified but he was deeply appreciated by the men and women in the u.s intelligence community who worked with him worked for him uh and and he used that experience to develop an incredible opportunity when he ran for president of the united states and all of a sudden saddam hussein as we've been pointing out stunned the world uh in august of 1990 by invading kuwait and there was a question was the u.s going to respond or not and he put together that coalition that eventually included more than half a million u.s troops who were deployed to the region to liberate kuwait dana bash we've been talking about what a family man he was but we would be remiss in our duties here if we did not talk about the woman who gave him that family and that is the love of his life barbara bush that's right i'm just looking down at my phone because uh you made me smile thinking of a text that i just got from somebody who has known the bush family for a very long time worked closely with them saying that he lived a great life and loved every day he is where he wanted to be with barbara and you know on the plane right down here uh was rereading some of the the book that he wrote with the letters that he had written throughout his life and you know it's it's almost too much to wrap your mind around the way he would write as such a young man after he got into the to the navy back in uh when he was 18 years old on his 18th birthday but he had already

01:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=5160s)

on his 18th birthday but he had already met barbara pierce at a dance and he was smitten and he would write to his mother and he would write to his siblings and he would write to her uh all about that and the fact that that lasted that love that deep deep love lasted for almost eight decades is remarkable and yeah uh it was uh what six months ago that he lost that love of his life his the soul mate in the true true sense of the world of the word rather and uh the love story is something that is you know almost unparalleled in today's times uh you can't help but uh get a little choked up and i'm looking at a photo a picture from our kate bennett that she put out on twitter and if you guys have seen this but if you haven't then you should check kate bennett's twitter account and she covers the first lady of the united states and she's covered first ladies and it's a picture of barbara bush sitting on the south portico steps with her two dogs and says barbara bush used to sit on the steps of the south portico at the white house waiting for george bush to return from trips i thought of this picture tonight and how happy she must be that he is coming home to her again and there it is up on your screen dana no absolutely and and look it's not just that she was an incredible partner for him she you know she believed and that both of them believed in the same things uh which was and is service and that is what they imparted on their children and their grandchildren uh their big boisterous family both here in texas and of course they have spread out uh around around the the um the country and the way that george h.w bush loved his wife um was an example to his children to his sons clearly and to his daughters as well our his daughter doro and so that and to the end to the country and

01:28:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=5282s)

that and to the end to the country and um that is another example of something that was kind of a snapshot in time that people are longing for those those moments of reverence for family uh as as well as deep deep love affairs uh jamie and gill i mentioned to you earlier i asked you how does how does anybody prepare for this can you tell us anything about the services so what we're our understanding is it has not been publicly announced yet but that the family will gather together in houston the um the former president will be brought

to washington d.c to the capitol where he will lie in state there will be a service at the national cathedral i don't think it has been announced who the eulogists are yet but i have been told that his son former president george w bush will be one of the eulogists there and then after that he will go back to houston and there will be a service there and he will finally be buried and lie where barbara bush is he will go up to his presidential library where barbara bush is buried and where robin their two-year-old daughter who died of leukemia is is also buried i i just want to don if we have a moment go back to the cia that you mentioned because george bush loved to tell people that his favorite job was actually not president of the united states although he loved it but being director of the cia and i will tell you you did not want to play poker with george h.w bush he he really did come but what was also important about it was

01:30:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=5400s)

what was also important about it was when he got that appointment the feeling was was that it was a dead end the cia was in trouble this was a way to not become president of the united states someday so the fact that he really turned around that organization there is a reason the building is named after him was very very important at the time and then to the rest of his career and the people at the agency adore him well said wolf i want to if we can get back to the former first lady and we are all of our hearts broke back in april when she passed and we watched that funeral you covered it many of us here at cnn covered it and we watched this president sit in the wheelchair and shake every single hand and greeted every single person and there there's the video right there and so we will be watching again and our hearts will be breaking again but not as much as his family that you see behind him in that wheelchair yeah such a wonderful family such a beautiful family a loving family and we'll see that underscored in these coming days as well as the family gets together and they pay their they pay their respects and they show their love for this extraordinary man 94 years old and you know 94 and and if you spoke with them then back in april uh when barbara bush passed uh if you spoke with him in recent years you know he was sharp he was there uh he had stories to tell and people emerged from from those opportunities with george h.w bush so impressed uh that he was he was so devoted and so on top of things he was watching everything and uh and you know it's it's a sad moment in american history right now that this great american president has

01:32:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=5521s)

president has has left us but we will remember him not not just over the next few days we'll remember him for a long time for all that he accomplished not only as president but as cia director u.s ambassador to the un u.s ambassador to china and and what he did after leaving office uh during the bill clinton administration during the administration of his son george w bush during uh the obama two terms what he did then on behalf of the american people was so incredible raising funds for such critically important causes he really was an outstanding person wolf jamie dana i want you to stand by because george h.w bush was president when the soviet union collapsed cnn's jim sciutto has the story of the end of the cold war the biggest thing that has happened in the world in my life in our lives is this by the grace of god america won the cold war many americans associate ronald reagan with the fall of communism mr gorbachev tear down this wall but when the berlin wall came down the nations of eastern europe renounced communism and the soviet union fell apart george h.w bush was president of the united states the cold war didn't have to end peacefully it could have ended with a bang instead of a whimper but he made sure that it ended peacefully and took a lot of heat in the process for not being willing to be to emote more about winning the cold war only months into president bush's term china's communist government brutally crushed a pro-democracy uprising in tiananmen square in beijing the president who had been the top u.s diplomat in china under president ford condemned the bloody repression but refused to slam the door on the u.s chinese relationship the process of democratization of communist

01:34:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=5640s)

of democratization of communist societies will not be a smooth one and we must react to setbacks in a way which stimulates rather than stifles progress toward open and representative system hoping to stimulate progress bush funneled u.s support to nations where communist leaders chose to negotiate with reformers he visited poland and hungary in july of 1989 receiving large and enthusiastic welcomes as reform in eastern europe sped up the president stayed cautious and deliberate reporters were astonished at his low-key response when the berlin wall fell in november 1989. i'm very pleased with the with this development you don't seem elated and i'm wondering if you're thinking i'm just not an emotional kind of guy we now know that in reality he was elated as well as intensely worried that the peaceful transition would fall apart if he gloated dance on the ruins of the of the berlin wall he said i'm not going to do it he knew that gloating would not help us as we tried to reunify germany and see how the warsaw attacked nations would transition to democracy i think it was brilliant the way he handled the end of the cold war and the transition to a europol freeing at peace the soviet union broke up peacefully and gorbachev resigned on christmas day 1991. gorbachev called president bush to tell him what he was going to do and he said to president bush history will judge us well yes we did the right thing didn't we good evening that same christmas night president bush addressed the nation from the oval office eastern europe is free the soviet union itself is no more this is a victory for democracy and freedom welcome sir able to sort of manage the process have been easy to

[01:36:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=5761s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=5761s)

process have been easy to to come across as sort of taking advantage of the collapse of the soviet union you know go pound your chest and turn it into a political event to his advantage perhaps domestically but certainly not in terms of how the whole thing unfolded it was managed very very smoothly i always thought and that is he's doing jim sciutto cnn washington let's bring in now presidential adviser david gergen david joins us via phone david he was really a cold warrior through and through through the cia as vice president and then as president of the united states he certainly was and you know he came by um his views uh i i honestly we have so many people who take shortcuts today don't really study the issues this is a man who took the international foreign policy of the united states very seriously and he wanted to make sure he got the best people and see you know he surrounded himself at the white house when he was president he had jim baker go over to the state department which was highly successful and uh and dick cheney which we you know was a person of less controversy at that time was very strong i often agreed with baker and he had vince brent scowcroft there at the national security council you can go just through the list of people and candy rice for example is extremely helpful to him and settling the european uh german question but don one thing i think that needs to be said again and again uh is how there was a there was something in the dna of the bush family that spoke to service uh it was his father really prescott bush who was uh who was the lion uh that gave birth to all of this and prescott bush was a financier on on wall street but he was he was uh filled a vacancy in the u.s senate from connecticut got elected uh in the 1950s um he took dwight eisenhower president loved him

[01:38:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=5880s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=5880s)

dwight eisenhower president loved him they played golf together a lot and i seriously thought about replacing dick nixon as vice president in 56 when he ran for reelection and to replace him with prescott bush uh that did not happen but george george a w grew up in that kind of environment where service was right at the top of the list and so when he was in he was finishing high school when pearl harbor broke out he was at the phillips academy in andover and uh and at the end of his senior year to 18 years old uh he signed up for the navy to to fly combat missions and uh i i the the lore of folklore is that he was the not just the youngest pilot in combat missions he was in the pacific but he was the youngest power shot down in the pacific and it was a there's some film clips from that that are that show just how heroic it was how he was rescued at sea uh he had a lot of similarities what happened to john f kennedy when his uh destroyer was cut in two um yeah you know as and and he nearly died too but and when when george h.w bush was inaugurated uh don he had a he had a replica of that avenger aircraft he had been and that he was shot down in he had it done in the parade because he wanted to to send a signal about yeah he remembered and he remembered what war was like and i think one of the things that distinguished the world war ii presence is that they had seen so

much blood and gore so much spilled treasure lost so many friends that they really were very reluctant to put u.s troops in harm's way if you've been in the military and you've seen a lot of bloodshed and you know how horrible it is you really are much more restrained and that's what george bush was all about i i and i do think in this time of tumult in our politics the time of identity politics it's really worthwhile to have our you know the next generation know the story of george bush nobody represented know the kind of leadership that was uh

01:40:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=6002s)

know the kind of leadership that was uh in vogue at that time uh and yes it was what did he come from an elite family yes uh that was there had to have a dynastic quality yes but it was all done in the name of serving the people of the united states and he was very humble about that truly the epitome of what is called the greatest generation david gergen i want you to stand by i want to bring dana bash and jamie gangel um back in let's talk a bit more about him and you know jamie david just mentioned the inauguration of george h.w bush but let's talk about the inauguration of george w bush here you are with him speaking about his father at the inauguration watch this he's not the kind of guy though to sit down and said let's discuss how i feel today but you could tell that he was very proud and as was i i decided i was going to go see what it was like to be in the oval office as president and i was in there taking in the moment and dad walks in i said welcome mr president he said thank you mr president did he give you any advice no no and he was very guarded about giving me advice unless i asked for it was it hard to live up to him no because of unconditional love in other words the message from george bush was i love you no matter what you do can you imagine that can you imagine how proud a father would be to say congratulations mr president and then respond thank you mr president jamie it it was no question and an extraordinary moment in general and certainly an extraordinary moment for the two of them you know both president bush 41 and 43 have said to me uh countless times you know don't ask me about our

01:42:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=6120s)

you know don't ask me about our relationship they we're not into psychobabble of it but of course there is endless fascination about it they were very close they talked a lot uh as president bush 43 said his father didn't give advice unless 43 asked for it and there is a moment it's not in that section but people may remember after 9 11 when president george w bush gave the speech at the national cathedral and he came down and his parents were sitting there and his father leaned over and touched his hand and patted him and he said of all of his moments as president he told me that was the most meaningful because there was his father publicly saying you did well so it was always important you know just listening to the stories that this president could share considering his experience in in world war ii and then beyond i talked about his resume and i asked wolf i said who has a resume like that you know now if ever i want you to listen to this dana this is george h.w bush talking about heaven there's people in heaven that you want to see definitely i can't quite sort out my mind how we're going to find him who would you want to see first well it depends if barbara pre-deceases me probably go with her but i think my mom and my father and maybe robin our little girl that died oh my gosh imagine that and his granddaughter doing the interview go on dana no absolutely and and look i mean that's kind of where where we started this conversation tonight which is the fact that

01:44:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=6241s)

tonight which is the fact that um you know it was impossible to think of george h.w bush living without barbara bush and vice versa and that was what people mean jamie knows this better than better than all of us people around them were worried that after she passed away in april that it would be quick he lasted a little bit more than six months i guess almost seven months but he certainly did so with from from all accounts the same humor the same joy the same um love of life love of fun and as much as he could that he had embodied his entire his entire life yeah and dana you you know what we talk about the greatest generation and i can only imagine um what you know men and women who serve this country especially folks in the navy how they're feeling about this hero this war hero who became president of the united states well as we were talking as we've been uh broadcasting tonight i got a text from mark kelly who is well known

as an astronaut um he's of course also the husband of uh congresswoman gabby giffords but before uh going into nasa he he he is and was a naval aviator naval aviator like uh george h.w bush like john mccain who we were we the world and his family laid to rest just a few months ago and so mark kelly texted me and he said um with the passing of john mccain and now george h.w bush the navy has lost the last of our most iconic naval aviators naval guys like me will really miss him and it kind of speaks to what you were talking about with david gergen about the fact that that he was so eager at 18 to go in and

01:46:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=6362s)

that he was so eager at 18 to go in and serve which was in keeping with the culture at the time after he was waiting till he turned 18 after after pearl harbor but he was dedicated to service he loved the navy just like the mccain family did the two the two families actually intersected uh because mccain's father was uh was was a four-star admiral in the in the navy at a time when george h.w bush uh had enlisted so it kind of all comes together but it speaks to the greatest generation the love of country loving country more than more than uh more than anything and that is a way to describe this man who we just lost this evening as it is to describe so many in his generation and so many uh in the military and in fact the navy which is what mark kelly was trying to say dan and jamie i want you to stand by because i want to get to buenos aires now where the current president is jeff selene is traveling with the president and has been reporting on him there at the g20. earlier we read the statement of the former president barack obama the current president who you're with you read that statement um and there's a statement in from former president um bill clinton as well as former secretary of state hillary clinton and basically i'll sum it up here they said in the statement that um hillary and i mourn the passing of a president george h.w bush and give thanks for his great long life of silence of service love and friendship and i will let you continue because as i understand you have this very same statement as well john we do and it's an extraordinary statement in the sense and let's just go through it here it says hillary and i mourn the passing of president george h.w bush and give thanks for his great long life of love service and friendship i will be forever grateful for the friendship we formed from the moment i met him as a young governor invited to his home in kennebunkport i was struck by the kindness he showed to chelsea by his innate and genuine decency and by

01:48:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=6480s)

by his innate and genuine decency and by his devotion to barbara his children and their growing brood he goes on to say free americans have have been or will ever be able to match president bush's record of service to the united states and the joy he took every day from it from his military service in world war ii to his work in congress the united nations china and the central intelligence agency the vice presidency and the presidency where he worked to move post-cold war toward greater unity peace and freedom he never stopped serving i saw it up close working with him on tsunami relief in asia here at home after hurricane katrina his remarkable leadership and great heart were always on full display president clinton goes on to say i am profoundly grateful for every minute i spent with president bush and will always hold our friendship as one of my life's greatest gifts our hearts and prayers are with george jeb neil marvin dorrow their families and the entire bush clan now john this is more than a statement from a former president to another former president think of this in our current political time it is nearly impossible to fathom what happened a quarter century ago when a democratic president a young governor from arkansas bill clinton defeated a sitting president who had been a vice president for eight years who was a you know a legend and this young democrat beat him they went on to become friends this was a bitter rivalry in 1992 of course ross perot also in that race which complicated things for president bush at the time but he roared out of his uh you know his first term with approval ratings you know in some uh by some eight and ten americans approved of his service after the gulf war and bill clinton beat him after that dawn of course they became friends the bushes saw bill clinton as another one of their sons largely over their public service work after they left office through hurricane katrina through other matters so that is

01:50:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=6600s)

katrina through other matters so that is what i think tonight as we uh celebrate the life and service and legacy of president george h.w bush that this is a telling legacy that he embraced bill clinton he embraced the man who defeated him now take a listen to this interview from george h.w bush in 2009 what he had to say about bill clinton president clinton beat me like a drum back in 1992 and then we became friends and some of his friends look at him and they say have you lost it with this crazy guy and some of mine look at it and he said it's just the same thing what are you doing with clinton and just because you run against someone does not mean you have to be enemies politics does not have to be mean and ugly so that of course a speech in new orleans back in 2009 uh george h.w bush said he beat me like a drum and indeed bill clinton did but went on to become such close friends so don i think this is something the passing of the torch of presidents as we over the next coming days uh mark every chapter and moment of the life and service of george h.w bush it is indeed a passing of time for american presidents there will never be another american president of course who served in world war ii there may never be another american president who us had as much decorated military service as he did but this was something that was within him of course that allowed him to not only befriend but actually like and work alongside bill clinton so this is something and again we talked earlier barack obama also became close to the bush family just three days ago he was in houston at an event uh he stopped and visited george h.w bush we're told they had a warm and brief conversation of course in declining health there the former president was but don this is

01:52:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=6721s)

the former president was but don this is something that americans do when an american president he is the longest living president in our country celebrating this life and legacy also a time to take stock of how things maybe used to be in politics and certainly how they are today jeff selney reporting from point of saudis um jeff stand by i want to get back uh now to jamie gangel uh jamie essentially what jeff is talking about is uh the president's club and george h.w bush really set the tone for this president's club one in which maybe one doesn't fit in at this moment as much as the others just being honest no no question i mean let's remember that one of the things as bitter as his loss was to bill clinton george h.w bush said i will not criticize him and he kept that promise he he felt he had had his time on the stage and now it was bill clinton's time and he was not he was setting an example for the appropriate way to he felt act after he was president and his son did the same and barack obama has pretty much done the same so absolutely he set uh the tone of civility a word we don't use a lot these days i also just thought maybe we could go back to his relationship with barbara bush because not only were they married for 73 years and not only did they meet at a dance when they were about 16 15 16 years old but i think we have some tape here

01:54:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=6840s)

but i think we have some tape here they were the first people that egypt they kissed this was so you want to show the tape and we'll talk about it all right now this one was december of 43. my darling bar this should be very easy letter to write words should come easily and in short it should be simple for me to tell you how desperately happy was i was to open the paper and see the announcement of our engagement but somehow i can't possibly say all in a letter i should like to i love you precious with all my heart and to know that you love me means my life how often i have thought about the immeasurable joy that will be ours someday how lucky our children will be to have a mother like you and then later in the letter good night my beautiful every time i say beautiful you about kill me but you'll have to accept it i hope i get thursday off still a chance all my love jamie who writes letters and you know it's it's just just such a great love affair and to have someone write a level it's just it's just fantastic so that letter came you know presidents write autobiographies guess what george h.w bush did not write an autobiography the way most people do he simply published his letters in a book it's called all the best i i highly recommend it because it really did show his soul and what was going on that letter is is just one example of it but he didn't write the autobiography because of this term that we've used a couple of times tonight braggadocia yes he was his father's son but he was very much his mother's son and she always said to him george don't be braggadocia he didn't want to brag about himself writing an autobiography would have been in effect doing that so he felt that this was the way he could show his

01:56:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=6961s)

that this was the way he could show his heart he knew that when he was in the white house people some people thought he was out of touch they didn't have a sense of him they thought he was this patrician from greenwich connecticut letters like that show his heart don wow um i mean it's the love between these two is just amazing you know jamie people used to talk about the way that the former first lady nancy reagan would look at the president reagan but i mean barbara bush would look at her husband you know in quite the same way and would sit on the steps but look at that before we put that picture up look at that uh in happier times you know we don't mention before i get to this this tweet from kate bennett what a handsome couple and i you know as we were showing i remember when uh when barbara bush passed and we were showing all the pictures on cnn of them as younger folks people said my gosh he was so handsome she was so gorgeous they were a really handsome couple we forget that they were young at one point right and and i just want to tell you i i actually was the pool reporter i mean look at this inaugural oh my gosh there he is and and on his 18th birthday he went and um and signed up uh there he is that looks like andover and knows it and that's george w bush i believe on his shoulders there he was born at yale good looking man i'll i'll tell you a little story about barbara bush if you want to pull up that tweet first this is the tweet and it says barbara bush used to sit on the steps of the south portico at the white house waiting for george bush to return from trips i thought of this picture tonight and how happy she must be that he is coming home to her again so i once had i was once with her when before he arrived home and she heard his car the motorcade pulling up on the gravel of the driveway

01:58:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=7083s)

pulling up on the gravel of the driveway and i'm telling you she was in her 70s at the time so they had been married a long time and she ran over to there was a mirror in the front hallway and i'm going to show you what she did she looked in the mirror and she pinched her cheeks to get them all rosy because at 70 whatever this was the love of her life and she wanted to make sure she looked good when he walked in the door that is love don lemon um jamie yeah yeah it's a hard day it is a hard day but you know what i i i love when we talk about class and dignity with with these two i love that they would you would see i miss seeing the dogs if we have them getting a boarding marine one and they would leave and come back and the dogs they would leave the dogs behind sometimes oh they would greet the dogs would greet them on the lawn and then her sitting there on the portico steps with the dogs it was the picture of a family right her with her dogs there but it was a picture of a family the dogs were included the kids the grandkids and then they were there as well it's just it's such an american story no question i i don't know if we have it but maybe people will remember one of their favorite photos was taken by white house photographer dave valdez but it was not in the white house it was at their home in kennebunkport and it was in bed and there they were hair tousled reading the newspapers with a dozen grandkids all over them walking in it it says so much about who they are as a family but it also said that you know they let him in there to capture that moment to take that picture and i think it also is important

02:00:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=7203s)

picture and i think it also is important to remember what these two people did after the white house they didn't sit around and feel sorry for themselves they went out and kept doing public service in this case they raised money these two people together helped raise more than 1 billion with a b dollars for charities after they left after they left the white house and and they would never turn anything down and if if that meant uh reading to children or if that meant standing there and shaking hands and having their picture taken they really felt it was their responsibility to give back stand by thank you for that jamie i want you to stand by and get back to dana bash dana joins us from from houston and then as we know houston was such an important place for this family actually the family resident is there in houston yeah yes uh this is where the uh the congressman george h.w bush served you mentioned that earlier that he ran for senate a couple of times and lost but he was in the house before he started uh the or as he started the storied career i mean if you think about the fact that his time in the u.s house was was so small compared to the other things he did at

the u.n uh at uh in china at the cia and uh and then of course the vice presidency and the presidency and then beyond as you and jamie were just talking about but one of the things um that was was noteworthy for someone like george h.w bush who only served one term uh and as you can imagine was not very happy about that that he didn't get that

02:02:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=7321s)

happy about that that he didn't get that second term one of the questions for him was what are his regrets i think we have some some tape of him answering that question i did my job as president i just didn't expose my inner feelings and i think people liked me i think people were disappointed i think people wanted change i think when i said the economy has recovered hey look at this guy he's out of touch i got a whole rationale of reasons why i did not get re-elected but maybe if i'd have been a little or more emotional or more revealing of the person why maybe it would help but it never occurred to me then i mean i i i no regrets then no regrets about anything no regrets about one single thing in my life that i can think of i mean i've made mistakes but they don't they don't measure up to regrets now uh a very humble man talking about his experiences as president of the united states let's talk about his legacy and the history of of george h.w bush now and the appropriate person to talk to is douglas brinkley as a presidential historian douglas hello to you uh thank you for joining us here we talked about what he will be remembered as and mostly as president for his foreign policy chops but also as a family man as a great father and a great grandfather and a great great grandfather well all of that and i think also he's going to be remembered for the things that he didn't do like for example don he didn't brag when um you know the berlin wall came down and germany was reunifying he was said you know we're not going to brag the united states when the cold war gonna work in europe and and then he worked very hard to make sure loose nuclear weapons were

02:04:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=7441s)

nuclear weapons were um contained it was a detailed amount of work and the amount of diplomacy a word we don't hear enough anymore when you hear of bush 41 it's all about a a life of diplomacy and you know he was so did not want to brag about himself so when he left office he wrote a memoir but he co-wrote it with brent skokov we're talking a lot about james baker and i think baker and bush 41 is the closest relationship in american history between the secretary of state and the president harry truman and dean atchison had a great relationship and there were others but there's nothing like that baker bush team but brent scowcroft who is an air force officer became head of the national security council under which they really devised a way for the soviet union to collapse in a way that would not shake the world's economic markets that would keep people calm and so they co-wrote a book together instead of doing my own autobiography scope crop and bush wrote a world transformed and they explained why they didn't brag about when the berlin wall came down they explained why when they liberated kuwait they did not go into baghdad uh it's important to know that skocroft baker and bush understood the limits of american intervention they understood soft power and hard power um they they knew the high cost of war and how many what what dead soldiers really means and they were able to build this incredible coalition a model american history when we went into iraq in 1991 on how to bring nato along the united nations along brings everybody in it with us so he's going to be studied bush 41 is how a commander-in-chief should behave in limited wars how to alliance build and how to perfect the art of diplomacy it'll be taught for a long time and and you know this coming week everybody's going to be

02:06:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=7561s)

this coming week everybody's going to be going to the bush library and college station again he could have done a glitzy presidential library in downtown houston where he lives we went to college station to be with the aggies he decided they could use the presidential library there and it's going to just have thousands of visitors coming to remember him and leave flowers there this coming week texas an important place for the bush family presidential historian douglas brinkley douglas thank you very much i want to get back now to dana bash and jamie gengal of course dana is is joining us from houston texas the bush residence is there

and i believe we have pictures at least we had pictures of the the residents and there was a memorial being put together there and i'm sure it will grow over the coming hours also in washington d.c tonight flags are at half staff at the white house and would imagine that other there it is right there at government facilities and they will be around the country as we mourn the loss of the 41st president of the united states dana you first from houston the home of the bush residents give me some thoughts on this president and what we've lost lost a patriot a a war hero somebody whose global leadership as doug which is talking about helped the the peaceful transition out of um an incredibly uh remarkable period in time the cold war which if it was not a sure thing if there was another president it might not have happened this way and we should remember that uh with the end of the cold war and lost somebody who is a father and a grandfather who not only you know was the father of a president and and uh and governor and so many

02:08:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=7680s)

and and uh and governor and so many grandchildren who just loved him as their grandfather and not as the former president of the united states uh jamie you we keep talking about i asked dana i said what we've lost what the world has lost we must remember that this bush family gave so much to the country and the world really and they they sort of gave their their family members their their father their grandfather to the world as well they had to share them with the world right as as george h.w bush like to say and you see on the library a life without service was not a life that he wanted to live in his family knew that and he spent a great part of his time in public service there are a couple of other words that we've heard used about him tonight that i think are always important but never more so important than the time that we're living in we heard former president bill clinton use the words total class and we heard former president barack obama a democrat say a gentleman and i think civility his graciousness the way he handled himself is a role model we all will miss jamie dana thank you thank you this is cnn breaking news i'm don lemon it is the top of the hour here's our breaking news the 41st president of the united states george herbert walker bush has died at the age of 94. the flag at the white house flying at half staff right now as flowers pile up outside the bush home in houston texas tributes are pouring in from president trump and former presidents barack obama and bill clinton as well as former vice president al gore

02:10:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=7802s)

as well as former vice president al gore and condoleezza rice james baker and so many more the nation mourning the man who devoted his life to service to his country and to his family cnn's john king now with the story of george h.w bush the politician it was the defining promise of his presidential campaign read my lips that was his 1988 republican convention speech just two years later during the build-up to the gulf war he broke it knowing it would infuriate conservatives and perhaps cost him his job as we speak our nation is standing together against saddam hussein's aggression but here at home there's another threat a cancer gnawing away at our nation's health that cancer is the budget deficit all his political people said don't raise taxes but president bush was convinced he had to to put the country ahead of his own political standing agreeing in the end to a compromise that included about three dollars in cuts for every dollar in new taxes there comes a time when you have to simply make tough decisions give a little to get what is best for the country if you do the math you don't get the clinton era balanced budgets without the bush era tax compromise conservatives revolted and the bush team believes that broken promise was a big reason he lost george bush had many stops on his path to the presidency he was the last world war ii veteran to win the white house he served a couple terms in congress lost a couple of u.s senate races and was republican party chairman during the wilderness years of watergate he decided to challenge jimmy carter in 1980 but an incumbent president wasn't his biggest problem despite winning the iowa caucuses bush couldn't sustain what he called the big

02:12:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=7920s)

couldn't sustain what he called the big mo as in momentum i ronald reagan do solemnly swear he lost the nomination to ronald reagan when reagan couldn't convince former president gerald ford to join the ticket he turned to bush who accepted despite eight loyal years as vice president a third place finish behind bob dole and pat robertson in iowa nearly derailed bush's 1988 campaign i have many friends to thank tonight by the time he locked up the nomination bush was 17 points behind the democratic nominee michael dukakis three months ago i remember some of the great publications in this country had written me off bush and his allies made up the ground by attacking dukakis as too liberal soft on defense they said and soft on crime his revolving door prison policy gave weekend furloughs to first degree murderers not eligible for parole one was willie horton who murdered a boy in a robbery stabbing him 19 times the strategy worked in the end dukakis lost 40 states and bush was president president bush was immensely popular after the 1991 gulf war but the glow faded fast by 1992 voters were frustrated with the sour economy and impatient with the president who at times seemed out of touch with their concerns how has the national debt personally affected each of your lives if the question if you're maybe i won't get it wrong are you suggesting that if somebody has means that the national debt doesn't affect them oh well i'm help me with the question and i'll try to answer it how are you businessman ross perot was rich enough to mount a third party challenge and a young democrat with the best political skills of his generation wherever the seeds of freedom are sprouting we could look members of a debate audience in the eye and feel their pain but as time moves on george herbert walker bush will be remembered more kindly than the voters treated him in 1992. john king cnn let's bring in now mary kate carey

02:14:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=8040s)

cnn let's bring in now mary kate carey she was a speech writer for president george h.w bush also peter winter a contributing op-ed writer at the new york times who served in the george h.w bush administration good evening uh to both of you it's so good to have you on mary if if i may start with you and i may say my condolences since you worked with this president you're a speechwriter from 1989 to 1992. what do you what are you feeling tonight um i am actually full of joy in a weird way for a tremendous american life and as president bush said it many times he he led a life of meaning and adventure through service to others and i talk about him all the time to young people across this nation and and i say to them you know you're 16 years old what do you think you could learn from a man who's 94 years old and and there's two things you can learn one is uh that this this amazing life of service uh he often said that politics is a path to public service and because of things like house of cards and some of the other things in in our culture today uh politics has gotten kind of a bad name but i believe that young people are tremendously drawn to public service and and making the world a better place and as jamie said earlier the president often said from now on in america no definition of a successful life will not include service to others and he certainly lived that and the second thing they can learn is that one person can make a tremendous difference in the life of this country george bush had a front row seat to most of the major events in the last half of the 20th century and whether you start with his service in world war ii or what he did at the cia in congress watergate as head of the republican national convention i mean a committee vice president president and then afterwards as a great humanitarian a sportsman a father and a grandfather

02:16:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=8162s)

a sportsman a father and a grandfather just a tremendous life that that affected so many people in this country uh that that's a great lesson for young people that that one person really can make a tremendous difference and it's a great loss for our country but i i prefer to think about all the things we gained because of him peter you served in the administration as well you were the deputy speechwriter am i correct um in the administration i was deputy speechwriter for hassan and then i worked in the office of national drug control policy for uh 41. yeah talk to me about 41 is who we're here to to celebrate the life of and to remember him and his legacy what do you remember most about him uh i think what i remember most about him is he was a man of so many parts he was just a deeply impressive man i mean we lost one of the great ones he was a person who was actually remarkable combination of characteristics in my mind there was strength and dignity and humility and gentleness and as a president he was a person of a lot of wisdom and prudence a

conservative virtue and a real steadiness at a time when the world and and the united states needed steadiness at the helm i don't think he was a great natural politician but i do think he was a great public servant and he had the right order of the loves he um saint augustine has aligned the ordo and morum the right order of the loves and and he had the right ones family and friends and faith and country you know he's a person who seemed to belong to a different generation an older generation and in many ways i think a better generation i look to him as a person and and the feelings i have tonight are gratitude for what he did and admiration

02:18:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=8282s)

gratitude for what he did and admiration for who he was um some presidents more than others um mary kate when um when they speak you feel the gravitas you feel the comfort in their voices and in times of of sadness and sorrow in the country george h.w bush was one of those men one of those voices we remember the thousand points of light speech which was one of the greatest in in modern history as a matter of fact the the former president barack obama referenced it in his um in in his uh statement of the passing of george h.w which he said after 73 years of marriage george and barbara bush are together again now two points of light that never dimmed two points of light that ignited countless others with their example the example of a man who even after commanding the world's mightiest military uh once and then he goes on to talk about that he was um he got more out of being one of the founders of the ymca than he did out of being the president of the united states but writing for him tell me what that was like well he had a great very unique voice and a lot of it was based on his self-deprecating humor and his humility which is surprising for a man who david mccullough once said to me was the most qualified man to be the president united states outside of the founding fathers and yet he was deeply humble as your viewers heard earlier you know his mother really ingrained in him a feeling of humility and not bragging many times in his speeches if if we had too many times the word i he would circle it and right across the top of the speech too many eyes he felt that as president united states it was more important to use the word we in a democracy

02:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=8400s)

in a democracy it was uh part of his character not to talk about himself his mother called it the great i am don't talk about the great i am but he also thought that it was deeply unfair to say i want this i want that as president he thought that that was unfair to the people who actually had to go do the work of implementing the policies and so he would always say we we're going to do this together uh here's what we're going to do as a nation and he thought that was important for our democracy he also felt that in terms of his humility self-deprecating humor was very important and so at these big dinners you know the white house correspondents dinner the the alfalfa dinner the gridiron he never uh pointed out people in the crowd and belittled them or made fun of his political opponents which is very much you know in vogue the last few years he he stuck more to making fun of himself making fun of the fact that he hated broccoli or making jokes about the family dog you know this sort of thing uh because he thought that was good politics and and everybody loves self-deprecating humor it's uh it's it's a very uh becoming thing in in the most powerful people in the world and and so uh it was it was great fun to write from it's the best job i'll ever have and i'm gonna miss it terribly because he was uh tremendously fun to write for i wrote a lot of the um the less important speeches i did the what i consider the fun stuff and it was the uh you know the girl scout of the year awards and the spelling bee winners and the turkey pardonings and and i think he thought that was fun too and so we had a good time together with things like that and uh it was it was a great joy because i think that was for him uh the fun stuff of the job was seeing the real people and and not necessarily being with all the big monkey muks all the time so it was great fun to write for him some of us loved broccoli others didn't especially this president because in 1990 he banned broccoli on air force one saying that he had hated it since he was a kid [Laughter]

02:22:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=8522s)

[Laughter] peter you listen you also served in the reagan administration correct talk to me about their relationship it was a very close relationship and one of deep mutual respect they were different people obviously and you know reagan had a real sparkling personality but it's interesting what david mccullough said because i was thinking about that on the way over george h.w bush could have fit in the founding generation because he was a person who was had so much experience and so talented he was deeply loyal to ronald reagan and reagan appreciated that and he was conservative as well he was a different kind of conservative than ronald reagan but i think he added a lot he came in with a lot of foreign policy experience that ronald reagan did not have and i think he was a steadying voice in the reagan administration and a person that that president reagan really trusted particularly on national security matters and and that showed when he became president as well i want to play this now this is uh george h.w bush reading a letter the reagans wrote to him watch this a letter to president-elect and mrs reagan written november 10 1980 you are vice president-elect now this one will be all right for me i think i don't think you'll have to uh this is just a quick thank you thanks for making us feel so welcome thanks for the joy of working with you thanks for those little touches of grace and humor and affection that make life sing please let us know that we both want to help in every way possible i will never do anything to embarrass you politically i have strong views on issues and people but once you decide a matter that's it for me and you'll see no leaks in evans and novak bitching about life at least you'll see none out of me and he didn't

02:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=8640s)

he didn't well there you go you know in the days to come mary kate as the nation mourns and as leaders will gather together they're going to put a new focus on the values of president george h.w bush the service the family um his service to country his honor that's what we need to focus on right now boy isn't that the truth the uh the values that he lived are in short supply these days and like i said i i talk to young people about it all the time one of the great stories from the reagan years was when president reagan asked him to be his vice president it was really because president vice president bush was then ambassador bush was the number two finisher in the primaries and uh it was the last man standing as they came out of the california primary and that's a little unusual these days to have the second place finisher be the vice presidential choice but it was a great way to unify the republican party and it lasted for 12 years you know that it was unusual it was not since uh martin van buren was the vice president of the united states then elected president united states immediately after a two-year term and and so that was a great testament as pete was just saying to vice president bush's loyalty and there was some hard feelings i think between the reagan and bush people when they came into office that first year as vice president and vice president bush said to his staff basically if i can be loyal to the president you can and that was the end of that and and there was tremendous loyalty between the two staffs uh for the rest of the reagan administration and that's just one example there's so many uh values like that that he lived and it's uh it's really remarkable the way he chose to live his life and and the the great example he gave us but all the time with great humor

02:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=8760s)

but all the time with great humor one of the things mrs bush once said was every time she walked past the oval office when he was president she only heard uproarious laughter and and that's because he engendered so much fun amongst the staff and that also built the loyalty of the staff if you have a good time at work you tend to want to come back the next day and uh and he was very good at that the number of pranks he pulled the notes he was passing during meetings there's just legendary stories of president bush's great sense of humor and and i don't think the american people knew that so much about him but certainly the people who worked for him did and that's what that's what makes uh so many people have worked for him for generations and i shouldn't say generations but decades uh uh how long uh bush world has been with him because a lot of it has to do with his sense of humor and the and the loyalty that he showed up and down whether you were the queen of england or the gardener he he treated everyone the same and there's a great lesson for that and loyalty goes up and down and he certainly lived that in his life and his fam but his family has talked about his personality that many of us don't see or didn't see at all and you can speak to that as well peter well that's that's right it is interesting sometimes people who have tremendous personal

qualities it's they aren't conveyed as well he was actually one of the most impressive people you would ever meet when you saw him a person who was in command and really radiated a kind of strength as well as a as well as a dignity i wanted to say something else too because a lot of people have said and rightly so how deeply he loved his family the other thing is how deeply his family loved him it was a remarkable thing you know i know both of his sons two of his sons jabed and president bush 43 and they not only loved him they revered him and i think that all of them of his kids would say that he was the greatest man that they ever met and the people who knew him best loved

02:28:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=8881s)

and the people who knew him best loved him most and that is really quite a tribute there's there's a lovely poem that stephen spender who is a british poet in the 20th century wrote but the traits of heroes that had passed away and he begins by saying that i think continually of those who are truly great and he ends it by saying they left the vivid air signed with their honor and george h.w bush left the vivid air signed with his honor and and we'll miss him peter wayner mary kate carey thank you for your time thank you thank you cnn's jake tapper has a story of a very modern presidency of george h.w bush historians say that president george h.w bush's international dealings set the gold standard for the modern presidency it is a big idea a new world order where diverse nations are drawn together in common cause to achieve the universal aspirations of mankind president bush charted u.s policies that promoted eastern europe's peaceful emergence from communism the fall of the berlin wall the breakup of the soviet union and the end of u.s soviet proxy wars in nicaragua and el salvador some have felt that we were so infatuated with the change in eastern europe that we're in a process of neglecting this hemisphere and that is not the case president bush used u.s military power to remove a drug dealing strong man manuel noriega who was turning panama into a narco state good luck and in what at the time was the biggest u.s military operation since the vietnam war president bush put together an international coalition that liberated kuwait after it had been invaded by saddam hussein's iraq the skies over baghdad have been illuminated after just over five weeks of aerial bombardment coalition ground forces pushed the iraqi army out of kuwait in just three days we

02:30:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=9002s)

out of kuwait in just three days we stood our ground because the world would not look the other way ambassador el-saba tonight kuwait is free the gulf war started just after time magazine declared george bush it's men of the year the cover of the two george bush's still sums up his presidency the uplifting world leader on the international stage and the one in washington d.c weighed down by a sputtering economy and dc's endless political wars president bush tried to be bipartisan from day one i'm putting out my hand to you mr speaker i'm putting out my hand to you mr majority leader democrats who controlled both houses of congress and sometimes even his fellow republicans slapped that hand away alarmed by then record deficits the president broke his most memorable campaign promise read my lips convinced it was in the national interest to compromise he agreed to a bipartisan deal cutting spending and raising taxes he broke a major campaign pledge and then saw the deal shot down by house conservatives a second attempt passed but did not stop the recession in time bush's nomination of clarence thomas to the u.s supreme court provoked another acrimonious fight democrats dug up claims of sexual harassment this is a circus it's a national disgrace and from my standpoint as a black american as far as i'm concerned it is a high tech lynching for uppity blacks and bush's approval rating an unheard of 91 percent by the end of the gulf war slowly eroded the recession he could not stop ended up costing him a second term but president bush left indelible marks on the nation as well as on the world he signed the clean air act of 1990 calling it one of his administration's greatest domestic achievements

02:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=9120s)

greatest domestic achievements he also signed the americans with disabilities act prohibiting job discrimination and to this day opening buildings and public transportation to millions of americans it is no wonder that modern presidents from both parties looked up to him mr president i'm one of millions of people

who've been inspired by your passion and your commitment we are surely a kinder and gentler nation because of you uh and we can't thank you enough jake tapper cnn washington let's bring in now cnn's jeff selene jeff celine is traveling with the current president uh in brain assad's uh right now it's 4 23 in the morning where you are obviously folks are not reacting um but they will be once they wake up because this is where the world leaders are gathering don there's no question and there's uh every as we you know look at every chapter of the life of president george h.w bush at 94 had such a big stamp on the world and kept such a close eye on the world events and certainly a summit like this here at the g20 summit a leading you know a group of world leaders so many things have changed of course the tenor and tone of politics have changed so much but don as we sit back and really reflect and and sort of re-learn some points of president bush's time in office i am struck by i think something that will stand out in history it is that relationship starting with president reagan he ran against president reagan governor reagan at the time in the 1980 primary he was defeated and then he was picked as the vice president he was a loyal vice president as we heard earlier there and then he of course went on to serve one term of his own but was defeated by governor bill clinton of arkansas that was a painful defeat for a sitting president who had been a vice president but i think there is a lesson in what came next the strong bond that the bush family of president george h.w bush and barbara bush

02:34:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=9240s)

bush and barbara bush formed with bill clinton was one that we have not seen the likes of in our current politics they became so close they became uh you know a deep family members of one another and it became something that uh again we've not seen before and i was looking through uh some of the words and writings that both of them said and this was a mutually um um agreeable uh love affair if you will and this is something that bill clinton said about george h.w bush he said this man whom i'd always liked and respected and then ran against him in a painful campaign in some ways i literally came to love and i realized all over again how much energy we waste fighting with each other on things that don't matter he can virtually do no wrong in my eyes even though he virtu every five years makes me look like a wimp by continuing to jump out of airplanes i love you so don saying right there he can virtually do no wrong in his eyes that is something that is totally different from our politics of today different from our politics of this moment so as we go in the coming days to celebrate and remember george h.w bush we would be remiss to not put it in the current context of today's politics and see how different indeed it is we have read of course the statements from president trump that came out here early in the morning hours here in buenos aires struck all the right tones of course but we should also remember the bushes did not attend the trump convention some members of the bush family did not indeed vote for donald trump of course they wanted jeb bush to win the republican nomination it's a different era in this party's politics but on the tenor and tone so different than it was in the era of george h.w bush uh and we should say though that both former bush presidents did call to congratulate trump soon after the

02:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=9360s)

congratulate trump soon after the new york businessman's win over clinton but also he did he wrote trump a letter apologizing for not being able to attend his inauguration because of his poor health but he didn't attend um but still you know he's a man of such class and such dignity and if we do we have the picture of the the presidents in the oval office you know jeff considering what you said it's it's hard to imagine but i would hope that we could get back to a point where this photograph could happen to have the living presidents all gathered and getting along in the oval office at once no question about that and this is something uh don in terms of historians and the the lives of presidents this president's club there this is something that does not happen often at all and i remember this moment very well covering the barack obama administration seeing this happen in the early days of 2009 when he was going to be taking office you saw these presidents come together jimmy carter they're of course off to the side that got some attention at the time but boy a quaint notion to the uh you know divisiveness of our current time the time we see presidents come together essentially are at the openings of presidential libraries or at their funerals and president george h.w bush of course the longest living uh president will be laid to rest and will be celebrated over the coming days will be

eulogized by presidents of both parties and this will also be something that will be interesting to see how president trump how donald trump reacts to this of course he was not invited to the funeral of barbara bush we will see if he will be to this funeral but don uh setting that aside it certainly is a time to sort of take stock of this uh of this moment here and uh just talking and texting it

02:38:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=9480s)

and uh just talking and texting it tonight with uh with members of the bush family who i know and have covered for so many years they are remembering him with a smile and they are urging others to do so as well boy what a life well lived at 94. um well put jeff salney and buenas saudis with the trump um traveling with the trumps uh jeff thank you let me ask you one more question you know you know of course um you know his his own son the bush family and the adams family the only two american families to produce two presidents right no question about that and this is something absolutely that is something that we've not seen very often in our history at all and who knows if we will again it certainly is is possible but given today's outsider nature of our politics we certainly like politicians who you know certainly do not come from the inside it certainly is would be hard to imagine that a son would be elected again but don we do have that statement from the president uh and let's look at that again because i do think it is instructive here this statement that uh president trump issued just a short time ago um let me look for that right here as well i have it and i joined with a grieving nation to mourn the loss of former president george w bush yeah and if you if you when you find it just just let me know and i'll let you jump in president george h.w bush who passed away uh last night uh through his essential authenticity disarming wit an unwavering commitment to faith family and country president bush inspired generations of his fellow americans to public service to be in his words a thousand points of light illuminating the greatness hope and opportunity of america to the world jeff and don we'll continue the president trump saying he says this president

02:40:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=9600s)

trump saying he says this president trump always found a way to set the bar higher he said as a young man he captained the yale baseball team and then went on to serve as the youngest aviator in the united states navy during the second world war later in life he rose to the pinnacle of american politics as a congressman from texas envoy to china director of central intelligence vice president of eight years to president ronald reagan and finally president of the united states the statement from president trump goes on to say this with sound judgment common sense and unflappable leadership president trump guided our nation and the world to a peaceful and victorious conclusion of the cold war as president he set the stage for decades of prosperity that it followed and through all that he accomplished he remained humble following the quiet call to service that gave him a clear sense of direction along with his full life of service to country we will remember president bush for his devotion to family especially the love of his life barbara his example lives on and will continue to stir future americans to pursue a greater cause he closes like this our hearts ache with his loss and we with the american people send our prayers to the entire bush family as we honor the life and legacy of 41. so certainly poignant words a history lesson as we will be continuing for several days to come from president trump there certainly a different brand of politics but don as though as the g 20 summit continues here in the morning with world leaders gathering it will be a moment also to look at the impact that president george h.w bush had on the world and that was certainly a large one jeff selney thank you very much appreciate that i want to bring in now cnn's kaylee hartung who is outside the bush family residence in houston hello to you kaylee as when last we saw you there was a memorial growing outside the residence and you said people had been coming out and looking across the street at the residence and i'm not sure if folks are gathering it as late as 2 30 in the morning there

02:42:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=9723s)

yeah that's right don i will say there are more members of the media in the streets surrounding the bush residents than there are onlookers but you know there will be people in this neighborhood familiar with both george h.w bush and his late wife barbara who will wake up to this news in the morning and recognize that

their neighbors they came to know across the street aren't there that that chapter is ended for the bush family here in the tanglewood neighborhood you know we were reminded tonight in a statement by the mayor of houston that the bushes could have gone anywhere when they left the white house but in 1993 they chose to make this their beloved city their home the place where his political career began when he was the chairman of the harris county republican party and and over the last couple of decades george and barbara the two of them as the mayor said they became the most esteemed and relatable neighbors to so many houstonians we came to understand after barbara's passing when you would come across folks in houston it was not unusual to find someone with a story of seeing that couple at a baseball game supporting the houston astros or seeing them at a football game here supporting the houston texans they were boosters of everything houston and you have to imagine that there will be people who will look back on their experience november 1st one month ago and remember the last time george h.w bush was seen in public because there were undoubtedly houstonians who were voting alongside george h.w bush when he did that he early voted and his spokesman jim mcgrath tweeted this photo saying the 41st president accompanied by his two best friends jim baker and sully discharging his civic duty and voting today and that was the last time that george h.w bush was seen in public here in houston sully there his guide dog who had come into his life more recently

02:44:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=9840s)

more recently but this will be an emotional period for the city of houston as as so much attention will descend upon this city it is our understanding that in the coming days the bush family will be congregating here there will be a private service at st martin's episcopal church it's the church that george and barbara attended together it's the church that barbara was remembered in but that private service will be held in that church just a couple of blocks away from here in a few days and then president bush's body will be taken to washington d.c there he will line repose in the u.s capitol as we have seen so many formidable men who've come before him do and then a service will be held at the national cathedral in washington d.c then his body will be returned back home here to houston a larger service at st martin's episcopal church and then of course he will be laid to rest college station at his presidential library don several days ahead here in houston to remember the president and of course in washington also but this this will be a very personal experience for so many people here in in houston who came to know him and love him and we will follow in the days to come kaylee hartong thank you for your reporting out in houston tonight at the bush resident we appreciate that and we should as jeff zellney said before his family members are remembering him with a smile and they want us to as well george h.w bush was the 41st president and the father of the 43rd cnn's wolf blitzer has a revealing portrait of father and son in the white house it's always an honor to be introduced by the president of the united states especially when he's your dad it's only happened once before the country's second president john adams saw his son john quincy adams become sixth president almost 200 years would pass before atoms two and six were succeeded by bushes 41 and 43. dad taught me how to be a president before that he showed me how to be a man

02:46:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=9962s)

before that he showed me how to be a man and 41 it is awesome that you are here today much in america has changed between the era of the adams years and the era of the bush years but not everything it's still easier for a president to take criticism than see it dished out to members of his family change you though as you've told me many times whenever either one of your sons is criticized right much more much more hurtful than when i used to be in that crossfire much it's not even close call sometimes the roles were reversed mother used to call me say you need to call your dad and i'd say i'm president at this point why because he just read some editorial and he's upset and so i called him he said can you believe what they said about you and i'd say dad don't worry about it i'm doing fine i'm doing fine in their published letters as well as in their books and interviews we have a revealing behind the scenes portrait of life in the white house it mattered to be able to get you know these notes from dad or phone calls from dad because in that he was president he knew what the pressures of the job were like and he knew moments can be you know very trying and to have him interject some humor and or a love note really made a huge difference during my presidency the bush's

books letters and interviews give us personal glimpses of the most dramatic days of their presidencies including a family visit that ended on september 11 2001 the day terrorists hijacked four u.s airliners this left the white house flying to minneapolis they grounded the plane i was on it was a private plane landed there the next thing i know is out in a little little town outside of milwaukee about eight hours later the president called him he said where are you dad it says where your people made me land the relationship between bush 41 and bush 43 includes lessons for all of us so here's a guy who runs for senator texas twice and loses and runs for president of the united states

02:48:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=10080s)

for president of the united states in a primary against ronald reagan the state of texas and loses and ends up being president and and all the time was still a great father in other words defeat didn't define george bush there's something greater in life than you know chalking up political victories or political losses uh it it taught me and i'm confident taught jeb that you know you don't need to fear failure george h.w bush not only lived to see one son in the white house he also watched another son seek the same office my brothers and sister are different than me but i'm not going to go out of my way to say that you know my brother did this wrong or my dad did this wrong it's just not going to happen i have a hard time with that i love my family a lot life love loyalty and one family's unique contribution to the history of the united states i want to thank my dad the most decent man i have ever known all my life i have been amazed that a gentle soul could be so strong dad i am proud to be your son wolf blitzer cnn washington i want to bring in now cnn presidential historian timothy naphtali timothy's on the phone a gentle soul can be so strong truer words have never been spoken when you think about georgia taboo bush and we'll be talking a lot about him in the next few days um he believed that the white house that the office of the president was bigger than he was he was someone who was in awe of the office and believed it had dignity and he had to lend dignity to it and that's what you know when you think about is personal humility um at times it seems odd that someone who was so ambitious i mean after all um as we heard in that piece uh george h.w bush ran for office quite a few

02:50:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=10202s)

h.w bush ran for office quite a few times and lost quite a few times but that ambition was an ambition to be a public servant he had a sense that government though he was a conservative the government could do good that's what one important thing about his form of republicans of republicanism he believed that perhaps the government should be smaller and more efficient than a democrat might create but in the end the government the people needed good government and he had ambition to be the one to give them that good government it's it's remarkable he he is the end he's the end of the world war ii generation in power but sadly i think at least for the moment he is the last of the good government republican and for him public service was helping people through the federal government you could do it in private ways he talked about a thousand points of light he believed in volunteerism but he also understood that government could play a role in our world and that it could do good for all of us that's something you don't hear much from republicans anymore you know timothy you wrote the book on george h.w bush what do you think the defining aspect of his presidency what do you think well i think john meacham wrote a great book too um but i had the uh you know what don what what what struck me um was that how how much i had misjudged him just i was in graduate school at the time he ran against bill clinton the country seemed to need a change he seemed so tired uh george h.w bush of 1992 um he looked tired he didn't seem to have a message he didn't he didn't really know why he wanted to be president for another four years but when i looked over the decisions he'd made i realized that though he was

02:52:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=10321s)

he'd made i realized that though he was very bad at explaining what he was doing he was one of the poorest communicators he followed one of the greatest communicators in american history ronald reagan and he preceded another great communicator bill clinton but he was very bad at explaining what he was doing but in his quiet humble way he made some of the toughest decisions that any american president in the modern

age has ever made first of all how do you handle the collapse of the soviet empire there were so many ways to do it wrong there's so many ways that the american president could have made mikhail gorbachev's job harder i mean after all gorbachev is the one who makes the big decisions but we were his partner george bush got it right the gulf the gulf war you know george bush not there are very few people around him who wanted the united states to intervene to throw saddam hussein out of kuwait there was an uncertainty in his administration as to what to do well he decided we're going to do it and then he said he decided not only we're going to do we're not going to do it alone we're going to do it in a way that sets a new standard for the world we're going to do it in a way to show petty dictators around the world just because the cold war is over doesn't mean they have the chance now to use force to change borders so not only did he get the west together but he decided working with his buddy jim baker to bring the russians the soviets alongside us now now it seems you know people forgotten how hard that was well that was amazing in 1991 1991 because the soviets had been saddam hussein's backer but he managed through patient diplomacy to bring onside the soviets so that you had the soviets our former adversaries the arab world and the west together pushing saddam hussein out of kuwait and then he made another tough decision when the iraqi government when the iraqi army

02:54:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=10440s)

iraqi government when the iraqi army was was was fleeing the battlefield he decided we're not going to baghdad and why didn't he go to baghdad he didn't like saddam in fact he very much wanted saddam to topple by his own people but he was trying to set a very standard a new standard he did not want people to see the gulf war as the first american imperial war of the post-cold war world he wanted the gulf war to set a standard about the sovereignty of kuwait and he got everybody on board to fight to liberate kuwait but they weren't on board to topple saddam and if he'd gone ahead and toppled saddam he would have lost all the all the good capital uh and all the good understanding that this coalition created and what was his third big decision his third big decision was to deal with ronald reagan's deficit reaganomics had collapsed it was a failure george h.w bush is more responsible than any other republican for the success uh that we associate with ronald reagan with ronald reagan's economic success george bush understood he had to raise taxes now he promised he wouldn't raise taxes he was considered a counterfeit conservative by most republicans or many republicans that is on the right but he decided it was the right thing to do for the country now it cost him his party in many ways he lost his bid for re-election the day he worked with democrats to pass a tax bill in 1990 but he did it because he knew it was the right thing to do well those are three tough decisions it's rare that a president has one of those tough decisions he had three and he got him all right let me jump in here because you wrote something you called him and i don't know if you wrote this headline but this is essentially what it says it says the overlooked president we should thank george h.w bush for many of the successes attributed to reagan clinton and in it you're right some of some of the things that you just expressed some of the sentiments you said unique among modern presidents george h.w bush

02:56:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=10560s)

h.w bush did not make it easy for us to appreciate him fully when he was in office he disdained political theater and when his advisors forced him to do it he was bad at it once he left office though he was aware of his accomplishments he decided not to write a memoir and would not even do an official oral history for his presidential library yes imagine that imagine a president who decided that there was more to the job in pr okay i hope you know right now people are going to say george h.w bush is a throwback i hope that's not true forever i hope that we have among us men and women who understand that being president is more than uh the pronoun i it's more than just about yourself it's about our country and doing the right things for our country now look i'm not saying that george h.w bush didn't make mistakes but on on this day let's celebrate the tough calls that he made the right calls and the dignity that he brought to the most powerful office in the world timothy nathalie cnn's presidential historian thank you for your time thank you sir thank you don you know one of the lessons of of the life of the 41st president george h.w bush one we really need right now was the ability to bring people together the best example may be his extraordinary friendship with the 42nd president bill clinton here's wolf blitzer thank you all they were one-time rivals my biggest problem with

governor clinton is that he's on one side of the issue one day and on the other the other day and we cannot let the white house turn into the waffle house best of friends a political odd couple doing good around the world their relationship the subject of letters published by george h w bush in 2013. may all the democrats forgive me this

02:58:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=10681s)

may all the democrats forgive me this close to the election i love george bush i do i so appreciated your words about our relationship about our friendship bush road to clinton after a 2006 award ceremony it was from your heart i hope you know i feel the same way they become really great friends in fact almost like family and that's part of a jealousy problem for the rest of the bush kids they think they've got this other brother named bill clinton but until you've been on the ground and see it it is hard to realize the scope of the challenge that lies ahead they first came together publicly after the 2005 tsunami in southeast asia and traveled extensively together over the years here's what bush wrote to close friend and former time magazine columnist hugh seide clinton is a fascinating character he has opinions on everything no matter what during that tsunami relief trip bush like many others before him would be confronted by clinton's legendary problems staying on schedule i had always heard that bill clinton had his own time clinton's standard time he does i on the other hand am compulsively on time and two other attributes bush immediately noticed both clinton's energy you should have seen him going town to town country to country energizer bunny here kill me but and love of talking i soon realized as the trip got underway if we got in a bind for things to say or answers to be given to questions it was reassuring to know that he was the man president clinton is a phenomenal talker so they were perfect couple because president clinton could talk and talk and talk and president bush would listen and listen and listen and be the straight person for the jokes but bush too could try for a laugh from clinton writing to him after clinton nodded off at a martin luther king day sermon i could indeed feel your pain bush wrote invoking clinton's famous catchphrase i have been there myself more than once

03:00:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=10801s)

i have been there myself more than once i might add and it physically hurt as i tried to keep my eyes open two political opposites who shared the common bond of the presidency and a unique friendship wolf blitzer cnn washington you know in the bush clan recently gathered in maine for the wedding of his granddaughter barbara bush it was a small intimate family affair both former bush presidents escorted barbara down the aisle that day and wolf blitzer has the story of george h.w bush the family man he trusted others and inspired their loyalty and above all he found joy in his family and his faith those are the words of an admiring son george w bush writing about his father george h.w bush grew up in connecticut his father was a banker and eventually a u.s senator in 1945 he married barbara pierce daughter of the publisher of mccall's magazine more than anyone she was his companion and sustaining light in peace and in war he would complete 58 combat missions these were tough days but he had something that kept him going and if you look closely at the photographs of the planes he flew you will find what kept him going in the name he had painted under his cockpit barbary a daughter robin died of leukemia at age three four sons george w jeb neil and marvin and one daughter doro were adults by the time he became president over time gatherings at the family compound in maine became larger and more raucous what is it like doral and since you can't agree on everything when inside the family you disagree with a president or a governor um we there isn't a lot of that actually

03:02:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=10920s)

we there isn't a lot of that actually when i spend the weekend with my brother or my father we sort of talk about fishing or laughing and it's not like that but i think people voice their opinions although they live public lives the bushes guarded their families privacy and resented outsiders attempts to pry in or to play up stories of rivalry between the father and son presidents we know who we are we know how we get along and there's no rivalry there's no kind of trying to live up to something or or bring the boy up or i mean it's it's crazy we're

a close loving family larry and uh these speculative stories just drove me crazy how about you well they are nutty there was people saying we wanted jeb to be president not george that's who who writes things two books were written about me by someone who never said spoke to me ever so i mean i think you just overlook those they're just not true but you got angrier than your husband didn't you always shortly before the start of the 1991 gulf war president bush summed up his feelings about his family in a letter to his children i said i had a little plaque made it says cavu c-a-v-u cavu was the kind of weather we navy pilots wanted when we were to fly off our carrier in the pacific we had little navigational instrumentation so we wanted cavu ceiling and visibility unlimited because of the five of you whose hugs i can still feel whose own lives have made me so proud i can confidently tell my guardian angel that my life is cavu and it will be that way until i die all because of you wolf blitzer cnn washington jamie gangel who's friends with the family tonight shared something with us that most of us didn't know except for those who were with the family that kavu that word that that he talked about that meant sealing invisibility unlimited that he got from

03:04:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=11040s)

invisibility unlimited that he got from being a navy pilot that was a code word to let his family know that he had passed tributes pouring in to president george h.w bush tonight but nothing compares to hearing him talk about his life and presidency in his own words are you happy out of office do you still miss it i don't i missed some aspects but it's been so long since we were there but i don't i don't miss it i don't miss going to work every day in the white house i miss the presidency of course and i love being president i love working at trying to help people and do help solve problems but it was great but let's go on that's history i did my job as president i just didn't expose my inner feelings and i think people liked me i think people were disappointed i think people wanted change i got a whole rationale of reasons why i did not get reelected but maybe if i'd have been a little or more emotional or more revealing of the person why i may be able to help but it never occurred to me then my view on legacy is let the historians figure out what i screwed up and figure out what i got right and i'm confident that you know we had a good administration and good people and i think the same thing is true of our son and he you know had tough times and all but he said he's doing it right i hope that we both have set examples for how you ought to conduct yourself when you've been president and then go out of office let the other guy do it and support him when you can and be silent don't be out there criticizing all the time president clinton beat me like a drum back in 1992 and then we became friends and some of his friends look at him and they say have you lost it with this crazy guy and some of mine look at it and he said it's just the same thing what are you doing with clinton and just because you run against someone

03:06:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=11161s)

and just because you run against someone does not mean you have to be enemies politics does not have to be mean and ugly i've never like really talked talking too much about my own service it was just like everybody else in the country that was doing what he thought was right but in a personal basis the fact that i was flying in combat off a carrier makes the excitement of the naming of this new ship for me even greater than it would have been i always thought they did that kind of thing for dead guys but here i am and i want to i want to be around hell i'd even eat broccoli if i could make it for another five years this one was december of 43. my darling bar this should be very easy letter to write words should come easily and in short it should be simple for me to tell you how desperately happy was i was to open the paper and see the announcement of our engagement but somehow i can't possibly say all in a letter i should like to i love you precious with all my heart and to know that you love me means my life how often i have thought about the immeasurable joy that will be ours someday how lucky our children will be to have a mother like you do you think about dying no a little bit but not a lot it doesn't scare me used to when i was a little kid think about dying i was the parable but when you get older larry you know you don't think about it a lot i got too much to do too much to live for too too much happiness just because you're old that doesn't mean you can't do fun stuff and don't want to sit around drooling in the corner [Music] it's scary at the moment when you look out even though you're hooked on his person he said get ready get ready get it get ready to jump and you get out to the door and you look down there's no feeling of support and that is you know if you're what the heck am i doing and then off you go and it's just heaven no regrets then no regrets about anything no regrets

03:08:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsL5yp71bkA&t=11282s)

no regrets about anything no regrets about one single thing in my life that i can think of i mean i've made mistakes but they don't they don't measure up to regrets now [Music] the 41st president of the united states george herbert walker bush has died at the age of 94. he devoted his life to service to his country and to his family from world war ii combat pilot to congressman diplomat vice president and president and finally a widely respected political elder the death of the 41st president comes after his wife of 73 years barbara bush passed away on april 17 at the age of 92. our coverage is going to continue with cnn films 41 on 41. the two-hour documentary that tells the story of george h.w bush in the words of 41 of his colleagues friends and family you

---

END